

7m could get rises of up to £1.20 next week under threshold pacts

About seven million workers could get rises of up to £1.20 at the end of next week because a jump in the retail price index will bring into operation threshold agreements concluded under Phase Three policy.

Threshold agreements require employers to pay workers up to 40p extra a week for each percentage point the index rises above its October 73 level. The April index, to be published later today, may show a three-point rise (giving pay rises of £1.20) or a 2½ point rise (giving 80p rises).

Three 'trigger' points may go at one time

Peter Jay, Economics Editor, says that the early seven million workers, who will get automatic pay rises, probably of up to £1.20 a week and certainly up to 80p, at the end of next week. That will be the first of a sharp jump in the retail price index for April, to be published later today, larger than the 1.5 per cent rise in March. It is concluded under the terms of the last Government's Phase Three pay policy.

Threshold arrangements in the pay code require employers to pay up to 40p a week for each percentage point the retail price index rises above 6 per cent over its level last October. The index then stood at 185.4 in January, 1962-100, and by March it had reached 196.3, just 6 per cent above the October 1962 level.

Eight per cent above October would carry the index to 202.72, and 9 per cent would take it to 202.086. The April index is understood to have come at 202.1. Final checking and corrections may bring the figure a little below the 9 per cent trigger point. In that case, workers covered by threshold agreements would get up to a 40p a week pay rise next week, rather than up to £1.20.

This year's 24 per cent rise in the index, which is partly the result of a rise in local authority rates, partly of tax cuts, and partly of the rising material prices, has been foreseen for some time. The first threshold payments would be triggered by the April index was published, but it has only just been reached that at least two and a half 'trigger' points have passed in one go.

Official estimates of the number of workers covered by threshold agreements are unreliable because such arrangements are made informally between employers and employees. The necessity to notify the Board, which may only get to know about them when principal settlements are notified.

Whitehall is using an estimate of 6,900,000 workers. Pay Board figures believe the figure may be higher, though the number of workers covered by arrangements is directly examined is only 4,800,000.

It is also expected that there may be a sudden rush of new threshold arrangements when the new groups of workers read in tomorrow's papers about the £1.20, or 80p, a week which others are getting. There is no need for them to wait until their next pay settlement, to make such arrangements, and if they do not make the arrangements before next month's publication of the index for May, they will probably not be allowed by the Pay Board to receive more than one past threshold payment.

Unions' Parliament legislators to the contrary, the threshold "clock" will continue to tick until the retail price index for October is published towards the end of November, even if the Pay Board and statutory pay controls are abolished in July as now expected. No threshold arrangement made under Phase Three can, however, run beyond the October figure.

It is anyone's guess just how far the index will rise in April and May. But informed sources would not be surprised if it went up to a dozen 'trigger' points by the time the last payments are due to be paid at the beginning of December (or, for monthly-paid staff, at the end of December). That would add up to £4.80 an employee a week to pay bills and, less tax and deductions, to pay packets.

Official circles are disturbed more about the potential impact of such increases on industrial relations, rather than about the feedback effects on prices, at least between now and the end of the year. That might affect the competitiveness of British exports and so weaken the present export boom on which rests the Government's best hopes.

Continued on page 17, col 1

Britain's labour market still buoyant

By Melvyn Westlake
Economics Staff

Britain's labour market remains strikingly buoyant, contrary to widely expressed fears that unemployment might rise sharply as a result of the many shocks to business confidence of the past few months.

According to figures published yesterday by the Department of Employment, the number of registered unemployed in May (when the last count was taken) showed a substantial rise for the second consecutive month.

There was a tiny 1,900 rise in the seasonally adjusted number of unemployed (excluding school-leavers and adult students) to 548,200.

The crude unadjusted total figure for all unemployed in Britain fell by 11,400 to 535,000—the lowest May figure since 1969—while in Northern Ireland there was a 7,300 fall in jobsless to 26,200.

Although the real test will come this winter, these figures provide no evidence yet to support the view of some economists that unemployment would be likely to start rising sharply as a result of the £1,200 public expenditure cuts for the financial year 1974-75 announced in December by Mr Barber, the previous Chancellor, and the deflationary measures of Mr Healey, the present Chancellor.

In fact, the adjusted unemployment totals have remained remarkably steady for the past five months, representing 2.4 per cent of the workforce. Not since 1970 has the labour market been so stable.

For the eight months April to November, 1970, unemployment remained fairly constant at 2.5 per cent of the workforce. Although there was a sharp increase in the number of unemployed in January this year, the total has since inched up only slightly.

Equally encouraging is the rapid rise in the number of registered vacancies notified to employment offices. These rose seasonally adjusted increase of 17,200 this month, taking the total to 314,000. That follows the April jump in vacancies of 23,000. The number of jobs notified is now rising at an average monthly rate of 12,000, or almost as fast as in the late summer and early autumn of last year, when the economy was at full strength.

The level of output and employment appears to be held up by the recent very large growth in exports. In the past three months, the value of exports has risen by 19 per cent compared with the previous three months. That has doubtless taken up some of the slack apparent in the domestic economy. But the rise in vacancies probably also reflects a recovery from three-day working.

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Commodity index falls after selling burst

By Melvyn Westlake
Economics Staff

A new burst of selling caused heavy losses in London Metal Exchange prices yesterday and the Reuters Commodity Index dropped a further 12.2 to 1,306.1, its lowest level this year. Copper was £50 cheaper at £1,047.50 a tonne; 11 trading days ago it was being bought for more than £1,200.

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Mrs Marcia Williams included in list of 15 life peers

By David Wood
Political Editor

Mrs Marcia Williams, personal and political secretary to the Prime Minister, is included in a list of three baronesses and 12 life barons announced early this morning. Politically, it will be regarded as Mr Wilson's conclusive reply to the publicity that arose recently over the connection of Mrs Williams and her family with land reclamation.

Mrs Williams, who is 41, became secretary to Mr Wilson in 1956, at a time when nobody could foresee that he would become leader of the Labour Party and its longest-serving Prime Minister. The daughter of a Northamptonshire builder, she is a history graduate of London University, she had worked at Transport House, and there is no doubt that everybody who met her noted her extraordinary political flair.

In 1964, when Mr Wilson formed his first Administration, she became political secretary to the Prime Minister with an office in 10 Downing Street, and she has told in her autobiography of the campaign she waged against the "garden girls" (the Civil Service secretaries and typists).

BARONESS

Fisher, Mrs Doris Mary, MP for Birmingham, Ladywood, 1970-74. Steadman, Mrs Phyllis, member, Cambridgeshire County Council, 1969-74. Williams, Mrs Marcia, personal and political secretary to Mr Harold Wilson.

BARONS

Castle, Edward Cyril, journalist, former alderman, Greater London Council, alderman, Islington Borough Council. Darling, George, MP for Sheffield, Ellabourough, 1950-74; Minister of State, Board of Trade, 1964-68. Davies, (Gwyn), Editor, MP (or Rhondda, East, 1959-74; member, Glamorgan County Council, 1954-61.

She also clashed with Mr Derek Mitchell, then Mr Wilson's principal private secretary, partly over her right of access to Mr Wilson. Mr Mitchell was shunted to the Treasury.

Lord Wigg is among the Labour politicians who have not concealed their criticism of the personal power Mrs Williams appeared to exercise at the summit of the Government and the Labour Party. Her influence was pervasive, and here and

there it came to be felt that even important Labour politicians would be wise to approach the Prime Minister with the help of her good offices.

After Labour lost the 1970 election, Mrs Williams's brother, Mr Anthony Field, became Mr Wilson's office manager; and the Labour leader and his lieutenant, on a basis of personal friendship and family ties, became golf partners. When newspapers began to report earlier this year details of Mr Field's connexion with land deals, Mr Wilson stoutly vindicated Mrs Williams and made clear that she would continue in her post as a member of his staff.

It was made clear this morning that Mrs Williams, as a baroness, will remain personal and political secretary to Mr Wilson, but along with all but one of the other peers in the list will be expected to play a full part on the Labour benches in the House of Lords.

Today's is the third list of life peerages recommended by Mr Wilson since he returned to 10 Downing Street as Prime Minister in March, but it is the first in which he set out to reinforce the Labour benches in the House of Lords.

Of the 15 new baronesses and barons only one, Sir Robert Grant-Ferris, is not Labour-committed. He retired at the last election from the Commons as chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, or Deputy Speaker, and there are several recent precedents for holders of that office being elevated to the Lords. Eight of the others are retired Labour ministers or MPs.

Many political friends and foes of Mrs Williams will particularly welcome the life peerage for her husband. A prominent Fleet Street journalist and former London alderman, Ted Castle has shared in Mrs Williams's remarkable career without sharing the limelight, and it is a pleasure to his friends and colleagues to see him beginning a Westminster career at last.

Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, said this morning that she was delighted of her husband's honour. Characteristically, she added that she intends to keep her commoner's name.

Football: Dry moats recommended to guard pitches, page 9



Mrs Marcia Williams, Frederick Lee, Charles Pannell, Douglas Houghton, Patrick Gordon Walker, Edward Castle

Act firmly, Dublin leader tells Britain

From Stewart Tendler
Dublin

The Government of the Irish Republic yesterday called on Britain to stop prevaricating and take firm action to break the "loyalist" strike. It is understood that Mr Cosgrave, the Prime Minister, told Sir A. Galsworthy, the British Ambassador in Dublin, that the troops should man the power stations.

Britain is accused of talking rather than acting and one Irish minister said yesterday: "They are being kind to the people who would take over the country. The British must act firmly." It is felt the action must be taken whatever the cost.

At the beginning of the week there was hope that the trade union marches in Ulster or a lack of resolve among loyalists would restore normality. The crisis has intensified, however, and the Irish Government's concern has mounted correspondingly. Its patience with British tactics appears to be disappearing. The Dublin Government attaches considerable importance to the power-sharing Executive, as Mr Cosgrave made clear on Wednesday.

Essential services near to collapse in Ulster

From Robert Fisk
Belfast

The "loyalist" general strike in Northern Ireland took the province perilously close yesterday to the total collapse of its daily life when Londonderry lost its gas supply, the electricity service announced that the power system would probably break down by the weekend, and fuel grew so scarce that motorists queued for five hours to buy only a gallon of petrol.

Trade unionists, businessmen and Northern Ireland Assembly men urged the British Government to talk to the leaders of the strike, but Mr Gerard Fitt, Deputy Leader of the Executive, said, without apparently any hesitation, that British troops should be sent immediately into the power stations and oil-supply depots.

If the Government intends to stick to its determination not to treat with the strikers, who are demanding fresh elections, then it will almost certainly have to send in the troops within the next three days. If Belfast loses its power supply, the water will stop running, food will become unobtainable, communications will break down and the sewerage system will flood.

About 250 specialist army technicians are now in Ulster ready to enter the power stations and private talks between army officers and senior management staff at the electricity plants.

Such is the seriousness of the crisis now facing Northern Ireland that the publication yesterday of the joint law commission's report on the best way of countering cross-border terrorism raised scarcely a comment either inside or outside the Assembly. The Executive cautiously accepted its contents, the report suggests a system of extrajudicial courts to try suspected terrorists on either side of the border but was far more concerned with its own survival.

The Northern Ireland executive was so near collapse on Wednesday afternoon that British officials actually telephoned both the Government and the British Army headquarters at Lisburn to warn them that Ulster might return to a state of direct rule within an hour. Such dire predictions were, of course, averted by the agreement to postpone the powers of the Council of Ireland, but the strains still within the administration were only too evident yesterday.

While one minister was urging the Government to talk to the strikers, another was urging the Government to talk to the strikers.

Continued on page 2, col 4

Jail urged if council members hide links

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

A national code of conduct for local councillors, a compulsory register of their pecuniary interests, and tougher penalties, including imprisonment, for failure to disclose such interests, are among the recommendations in the report of the committee on local government rules of conduct, published yesterday.

The present maximum penalty for failing to disclose pecuniary interests is a fine of £200, and the committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Redcliffe-Maud, wants it increased to a maximum of two years' imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

Its report comes out shortly after Mr Wilson announced the setting up of a royal commission on standards of conduct in public life.

Mr Wilson told the Commons yesterday that the committee's findings and recommendations would now need to be the subject of consultation with local authority associations, staff associations and other interested parties.

The findings would clearly have a bearing on the work of the royal commission, he said.

"We also need to consider, in consultation with those concerned, whether there are recommendations in the Redcliffe-Maud committee's report which can and should be implemented at once, without waiting for the royal commission's report."

Lord Redcliffe-Maud said at a press conference that he hoped the code of conduct would find approval with the Government and local authority associations, in which case it could be implemented at once without legislation.

He said he also believed that Parliament should consider Bill quickly to establish the statutory register of interests, and to strengthen the sanctions against those who broke the law.

The vote in the Commons to establish a register of interests was a good omen for speedy implementation of the committee's recommendations for local councillors.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities welcomed the proposals for a statutory register of interests and for a code of conduct, but disagreed with the committee's decision to seek a continuation of the ban on council employees becoming members of their councils.

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Leading article, page 15

Summerland commission says there are 'no villains' in fire disaster

John Chartres
as Isle of Man

A long-awaited report of the inquiry into the fire disaster, which 50 people in Douglas last night, was released for publication at midnight last night. The main conclusions are that there were "no villains" in the disaster, but that it was a combination of faults and human errors, most of which were evident in the investigation. The disaster but might not have been apparent before it was.

Inquiry commission was set up by Mr Justice Cantley, words of a senior civil servant in Douglas, the commissioners are "gentle in tone" and "generous in praise".

Recommendations, one of the most important of which is that all young architects in the island should be given more instruction in fire prevention and precautions, are to have fundamental effect upon the architectural profession, the building industry, and local authorities.

A number of individuals are named in the report. Among them is Mr Cyril Pearson, the chief fire officer in the Isle of Man. The report says about him: "The chief fire officer received the plans for the submission to the local authorities in 1967. He should have considered the problems of fire-fighting at that time in order to improve the conditions which he agreed in the event were very difficult."

On the way that Mr Pearson applied existing regulations, based on by-laws applying to theatres, the report says: "He was placed in a very difficult position. By hindsight he wished he had insisted on considerable modifications, but being fully involved with other responsibilities and with limited time devoted to fire protection matters he made no representations."

Mr Pearson said yesterday that it would be "lunatic" for him to comment until he had been given adequate time to study the whole report.

A statement by Trust Houses Forte Ltd last night said that the company had issued what the commission had described as "an excellent document compiled for the guidance of general managers to assist them in safeguarding the public and their property under their control."

The statement went on to say that regretfully there had been human failure in "an application of the company's system of fire and emergency procedures, and the responsibility for the matters of design, construction and materials there were serious failings."

Publication of the report will now open the way for long and complicated litigation and insurance procedures. It has been estimated that a sum approaching £5m is involved in compensation to relatives of the dead and to the injured and in the cost of building another Summerland complex.

Orogas chief pleases: Mr Allan Watson, marketing director of Orogas (UK) Ltd, British distributors of Orogas, said he was pleased with the report (the Press Association reports). He had maintained throughout the investigation that Orogas had a plastic material used for the roof and part of the walls of Summerland, had not played a primary role in development and spread of the fire.

Report, page 4

Inquiry on nurses' pay to start next week

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

An independent inquiry into the pay and conditions of work of nurses and midwives is to be set up immediately under the chairmanship of Lord Halsbury, chairman of the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body. Announcing that in the Commons last night, Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, said the inquiry would be unfettered. It would report speedily and would begin work immediately after the Whitsun holiday.

Pay increases resulting from the inquiry would be backdated to yesterday. Emphasizing the need to act rapidly over the "legitimate grievances" of the nursing profession, Mrs Castle said she had asked the health authorities to meet the immediate and acute financial difficulties of the nursing profession, making advances this month on the additional pay due for April and May resulting from new rates already negotiated.

They had been unpaid because of the complexity of the Phase Three award, she said, and because the introduction of the NHS reorganization on April 1 had placed the authorities under immense strain.

Mrs Castle told the House that the Government's intention was that the results of the inquiry should be applied to those professions supplementary to medicine whose pay had been traditionally linked with that of the nurses. They included physiotherapists, radiographers, dieticians, chiropodists and occupational therapists.

Mr Paisley and Mr Rees in fierce duel of words

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

At the bitterness that is Northern Ireland welled up in the Commons yesterday as Mr Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State, accused certain Ulster MPs at Westminster of attempting to set up a provisional government and of issuing their own ration books. It made him sick, he said, that they should continue to come to Westminster and to draw their pay.

Mr Jan Paisley thundered at this "foul slander". He declared to know the MPs' names, declaring that no ration books had been issued in the name of any MP and none of them had suggested a provisional government.

Mr Paisley later advocated a United Kingdom referendum on whether people wanted Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom. If Ulster was to go its own way, he said, it would go reluctantly, but it would never go into a united Ireland republic.

Mr Rees, usually mild-mannered, thundered back at Mr Paisley that it was no good being a democrat at Westminster and a demagogue in Northern Ireland: he and his friends were trying to bring down the elected Government. Permit cards were being issued by his associates.

Mr Rees told MPs: "My responsibility is to this House and not to the sort of people Mr Paisley is associating with, backed by paramilitary groups who have arms." Mr Paisley was making a mockery of the Christianity that he (Mr Rees) had learnt.

Later, Mr Paisley said that it was not known if any MPs behind a provisional government, he should have them arrested. He rejected the "vile insinuations" that the strike leaders were fascist bully boys.

Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, confirming a medical advice on efforts were now being made to force-feed the Price sisters, said there could be no question in present circumstances of transferring them from Britain to Northern Ireland. He would keep the matter under review and when, in a few months, a decision on a transfer would have to be taken, it would be on grounds of compassion and security.

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Stiffer penalties proposed for councillors who conceal interests

Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

A compulsory register of pecuniary interests and a code of conduct for all councillors are the two recommendations of the Home Office's committee on local government rules of conduct, whose report was published yesterday.

The register, open to inspection by any local elector, should include all employments, land, property owned in the area, the authority, any companies in which the councillor has more than a specified interest, and a tenancy of premises owned by the authority.

Under the chairmanship of Lord Redcliffe-Maud, the committee also recommends that the on disclosure of pecuniary interests should be strengthened, increased penalties for failure to disclose, including imprisonment, and its other main recommendation, the committee says that employees of a local authority should continue to be legally qualified from election as councillors.

The committee was set up last year by Mr Heath, then the Minister.

Accepting that there is a great deal of disquiet about conduct in local government, the committee points out that the 1964-72, the latest period for which details were available, members and 22 councillors were convicted under the Prevention of Corruption Act, and 15 members were convicted of failure to disclose a pecuniary interest.

On judgment, largely subjective, it says that standards of conduct in local government are generally high. At the same time it shares the public concern that unless corruption is stopped, the only acceptable standard for British local government is that of the 1971-72, the report says, in England and Wales, and London, was more than £1,500,000, compared with less than £1,000,000 in 1964-72. It also points out that growth in the value of council property has been substantial, the increasing financial



Lord Redcliffe-Maud, chairman of the committee.

that his presence might inhibit his colleagues from speaking freely.

Recommending a statutory compulsory register of pecuniary interests, the committee says that objections to it are outweighed by the substantial contribution to public confidence which a carefully designed register could make.

We do not believe... it would represent any greater intrusion on privacy than is required of someone who submits himself to election; or that it would deter many people from service.

A register would help to show that councillors had nothing to hide; help to remove the grounds for suspicion which could now attach to innocent people; and give the elector a more accessible picture of the member's general background than the record of special disclosures at meetings, and would for that reason be a more convincing demonstration of openness.

The register should include the interests of the member's spouse where known to the member, but not those of any other relative.

The committee's recommendations for inclusion in the register are:

1. All paid employments and occupations, including directorships, consultancies, and any sponsorship of the member by any organization or person. The amount of the income involved need not be stated except that from sponsorship which can be distinguished from other sources of income because it is directly related to the business of the authority. Professional men would be required to indicate the nature and business of their firm, but not the names of clients.
2. All land or other real property in the area of the authority, owned freehold, or held on a lease granted for one year or more, or in respect of which an option to purchase is held; the location to be described generally rather than precisely.
3. Companies or other bodies where the member has a beneficial interest in securities of a nominal value greater than £1,000, or one hundredth of the issued share capital, whichever is the less. The amount of the holding need not be stated, but should be included.
4. Any tenancy of premises owned by the authority.

The present maximum penalty for failure to disclose is £200 fine or imprisonment for three months or both.

lic interest, and that official facilities were used strictly for the purposes of official duties.

The committee recommends that the use for private gain of information received through membership or employment in a local authority should be a criminal offence.

Local authority officers should be required to disclose an interest in a "contract, proposed contract or other matter" not only in a "contract", as at present.

They should also be required to disclose a pecuniary interest orally at meetings, and offences by officers against these requirements should be subject to the same penalties and limits on prosecution as those by councillors.

Local authorities should keep a record, open to inspection by councillors, of the pecuniary interests of chief and deputy chief officers and such other officers as the authority might require.

The committee states that local government employees should not undertake outside work for payment by members of the public on any matter within the scope of their official duties. Senior and professional staff should not, within two years of retiring or resigning from the authority, take up without the authority's consent comparable employment in the authority's area.

The law should not be changed, the committee recommends, in regard to the disqualification of employees of an authority from becoming members of it. In evidence, the Labour Party, the TUC and individual unions emphasized the importance of removing or relaxing that disqualification.

The committee says the arguments in favour of such a move were overwhelmed by the need to avoid conflicts of interest, to maintain political impartiality, and to secure sound internal relationships in the authority's organization.

There is no category of employees to which none of these considerations applies. No clear distinction can be made between employees who should remain disqualified and those who should not.

One partial exception was the cooption of teachers to education committees. The committee does

Recompense for Myra Hindley's go-between

Mrs Patricia Ali, who lost six months' remission for making a "false" accusation about a prison officer's lesbian relationship with Myra Hindley, is to get compensation, an MP disclosed yesterday.

Mr William Wilson, Labour MP for Coventry, South-east, has been told by Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, that he is to appoint an independent assessor to hear representations and suggest an appropriate sum.

Mrs Ali, aged 45, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, was serving 30 months at Holloway for a car insurance fraud. She reported the relationship between Myra Hindley and Patricia Cairns, a prison officer, after acting as their go-between.

A visiting magistrate at Holloway found her guilty of making malicious allegations. She lost 160 days' remission and served two weeks in solitary confinement.

A Home Office inquiry was begun after Mrs Ali had told Mr Wilson of the affair between Myra Hindley and Miss Cairns, a former Carmelite nun.

At the Central Criminal Court in April Miss Cairns was jailed for six years for conspiring to effect Myra Hindley's escape. Myra Hindley, already serving a life sentence for the moors murders, was given a one-year sentence for the conspiracy.

Mrs Ali said yesterday: "Make no mistake, I want a lot of money. As far as I am concerned £500,000 would be about right." She said she had received letters threatening to "scar" her if she received compensation.

She still had letters from prison including one from Myra Hindley and planned to give more details on life in Holloway.

Man cleared

Cleveland Albert Gregory, aged 41, of Brixham Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, a bus driver, was cleared at Winchester Crown Court yesterday of three charges of conspiring to import, and importing, cannabis into Britain.

Draft code sets out guidelines

The report sets out a draft for national code of conduct to guide all councillors, and to provide an explicit public standard which those elected to local government can act from it. It reads:

1. National code of local government conduct

This code is an authoritative guide to all councillors elected to local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland. It supplements both the law enacted by Parliament and the standing orders of individual councils.

Law, standing orders and local codes

It is your duty to fully understand the rules of conduct which law, standing orders and the local code require you to follow. It is your responsibility to apply their requirements every relevant occasion. Seek advice about them that you can from your council's senior officer.

Public duty and private interest

Your overriding duty as a councillor is to the whole local community.

You have a special duty to your constituents, including those who did not vote for you. Whenever you have a private or personal interest in any local authority business, you must not do anything that might influence the council's decision.

Do nothing as a councillor which could not justify it if it were public.

The reputation of your council and of your party if you belong to one, depends on your conduct and what the public believe about your conduct of pecuniary and other interests.

The law makes specific provision requiring you to disclose pecuniary interests, direct and indirect, which are not likely to be just as important as friendship, membership of an association, society, or union, and many kinds of relationship can influence your judgment or give the impression of bias. A good test is to ask yourself whether others think the interest close enough to influence someone in a position of trust, or if you are in doubt, treat it as if it were a pecuniary interest.

one, disclose it and withdraw from the meeting.

(ii) You must follow the principles about disclosure of interest in your official relations with other councillors, with other members of the council, with other councillors, or other officials, in meetings, or other informal occasions, and in casual conversation, no less scrupulously than at formal meetings of the council, its committees and subcommittees.

Membership and chairmanship of council committees and subcommittees

(i) You, or some firm or body with which you have professional business or personal interests within the area for which the council is responsible, and such interests must be closely related to the work of one or more of the council's committees or subcommittees, concerned (say) with planning or developing land, council housing or the letting of contracts for supplies, services or works. Before seeking or accepting membership of any such committee or subcommittee, you should seriously consider whether your membership would involve you in disclosing an interest, so often that you could be of little value to the committee or subcommittee.

(ii) In weakening public confidence in the impartiality of the committee or subcommittee.

(iii) You should not seek or accept the chairmanship of a committee or subcommittee whose business is closely related to a personal interest of yourself or of anybody with which you are associated.

5. Councillors and officers

(i) Both councillors and officers are servants of the public, and they are indispensable to one another. But their responsibilities are distinct. Councillors are responsible to the electorate and serve only so long as their term of office lasts. Officers are responsible to the council and are permanently appointed. An officer's job is to give advice to councillors and to carry out the council's work under the direction and control of councillors.

(ii) Mutual respect between councillors and officers is essential to good local government. Close personal familiarity between individual councillor and officer can damage this relationship and prove embarrassing to other councillors and officers.

(iii) If you are called upon to take part in appointing an officer, the only question you should consider is which candidate would best serve the whole council. You should not let your personal or political preferences influence your judgment. You should not canvass the support of colleagues for any candidate and you should resist any attempt by others to canvass yours.

6. Use of confidential information

As a councillor you necessarily acquire much information that has not yet been made public. You should not normally reveal such information to anyone outside the council's membership or staff. It is a grave betrayal of trust to use confidential information for the personal advantage of yourself or of anyone known to you.

7. Gifts and hospitality

Treat with extreme caution any offer of gift, favour or hospitality that is made to you personally by any person or organization that is doing or seeking to do business with the council, or is applying to the council for any planning or other kind of decision. Working lunches and other social occasions arranged or authorized by the council or by one of its committees or subcommittees may be a proper way of doing business, provided that no extravagance is involved. Nor can there be any hard-and-fast rule about acceptance or refusal of token of good will on special occasions. But you are personally responsible for all such decisions and for avoiding the risk of damage to public confidence in local government.

8. Use of allowances

Observe scrupulously the rules enjoining you to claim

(a) allowances for performing "approved duty" as a councillor and

(b) repayment of expenses incurred for travel and subsistence while doing business on the council's behalf.

9. Use of council facilities

Make sure that any facilities, such as transport, stationery, or secretarial services, provided by the council for your use in your official duties are used strictly for those duties and for no other purpose.

The members of the committee were Lord Redcliffe-Maud, chairman, Sir Philip Allen, Sir Mark Smith, Mr R. Leigh-Pemberton, Mr S. Lloyd-Jones, Mr J. M. Turner, and Mr David Widdicombe, QC.

(Conduct in Local Government - Report of the Prime Minister's Committee on Local Government Rules of Conduct (Stationery Office, 57p).)

Government considering trade union review body

Government did not need to use the legal provisions dealing with complaints by workers against trade unions, the Minister of State, Lord Croom, told the Commons yesterday.

The Minister said that the Government was seriously considering that and he hoped

Prison officers call for closed visits

From Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent, Western-super-Mare

Enormous amounts of drugs and small tungsten blades hard enough to cut through the specially hardened bars are being passed into Albany top security prison during open visits, Mr James Roberts, an officer there, told the annual conference of the Prison Officers' Association at Western-super-Mare yesterday.

Inmates had openly said to officers: "You can't watch us all the time."

Mr Roberts said: "We at Albany face difficulties most days of the week by articles being passed through on open visits." Three officers had to watch 30 prisoners.

Officers at the conference called for closed visits at all prisons with high-risk prisoners.

Officers also accused the Home Office of using the Official Secrets Act to gag comment on matters of public interest.

Mr Alfred Pitman, of Bristol, said: "It has been said that if the Official Secrets Act were removed we might say things that would embarrass the minister in the House. If that is so, then it is time these things were said."

Edge to housing groups

Commitment to help housing associations in difficulty was yesterday by Mr Fresson, Minister for Housing and Construction, during the Commons debate on the Housing Bill.

The Housing Bill, which contains measures to help housing associations, may not go far enough in dealing with the immediate needs of some associations, he said.

Government would introduce an amendment to the Bill dealing with the matter, he emphasized that local

authorities had the powers to consider ways of helping housing associations in an emergency.

The financial difficulties of the associations were probably not merely immediate and temporary. "We are therefore reviewing the general arrangements for rent subsidies for housing associations. If their problems prove endemic there may be a need to introduce revenue deficit financing provisions in place of the present subsidy system."

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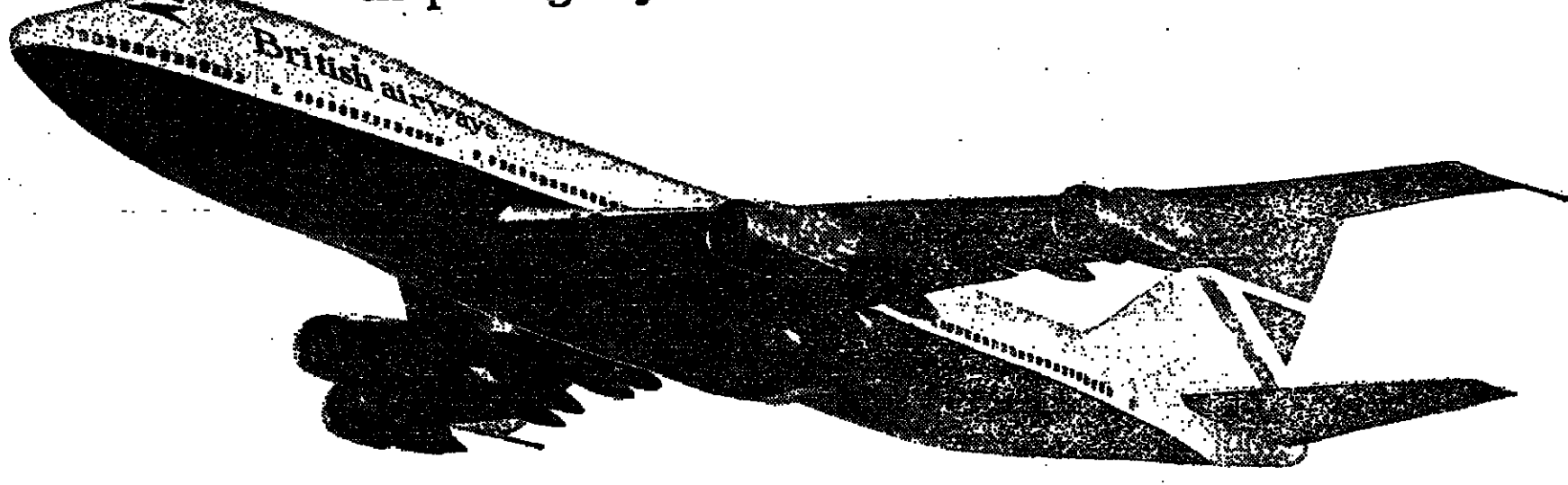
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HOME NEWS

Summerland report says many human errors led to disaster

From John Chertres
Douglas, Isle of Man

Faults in design, many inadequacies and failures in management, and lack of good communications between the various bodies concerned with the Isle of Man's Summerland leisure centre all contributed to the fire that killed 50 people.

Those are the main findings of the commission of inquiry, published today in a 35,000-word document.

The commission says, however, that there were "no villains". It goes on:

"There were many human errors and failures and it was the accumulation of these, not much reliance on an 'old boy' network and some very ill defined and poor communications which led to the disaster."

In some words of comfort to all concerned, the commission, which was headed by Mr Justice Cantley, adds:

"It would be unjust not to acknowledge that every failure which is obvious now would be obvious before the disaster put the structure and people to the test."

The commission makes 34 recommendations, many of which will have fundamental effects on the architectural profession, building industry and local government.

They include suggestions that architectural training should include a much extended study of fire protection and precautions; and that the theatre regulations applying both to the Isle of Man and the rest of the Kingdom should be revised and extended as a matter of urgency.

The architects and designers, the Isle of Man Government and Douglas Corporation (which jointly sponsored and owned Summerland) and Trust Houses (Leisure) Ltd, which operated it as lessee, all take shares of the commission's criticisms of inadequacies, failures and human errors.

The report says that Summerland was a multi-storey building intended to house large numbers of people but it was constructed without the essential safety features of "compartmentation": the provision of barriers to separate people from a fire risk and to contain it if it breaks out in a limited area.

In Summerland the audience and the fire risk were mixed up together on the solarium and upper terraces, each of which had no separation from any other part of the building.

The building and its use also involved a factor that the commission says has never figured before in a fire disaster: most of the children in the building were engaged in separate activities from their parents (one of the main ideas of the whole project was to provide different sorts of fun for young and old) so that when the fire broke out many parents lost their lives trying to find their children instead of immediately making good their own escapes.

The commission comments: "It is easy to say that it should have been appreciated and provided for. It seems very obvious now. However, it was not obvious before the building went into operation and it is much more understandable for it to have been overlooked by those who were concerned with the project before the building went into operation than for Trust Houses (Leisure) Ltd to have overlooked it once the various features were

set out and the building was in actual operation.

The report makes detailed comments on the use of three relatively new materials used in the construction of the building, Oroglas, the transparent plastic material used for the roof and part of the walling; Galbestos, the cladding material used for walls, and Decalin, a type of fibreglass used as an interior lining to the Galbestos wall in the area where the fire first spread.

The combination of the two latter materials in a way suggested by Mr John Frank, an interior designer employed by Gillison Barnett, of Leeds, who were associate architects for the project, created a concealed void with a combustible inner surface on both sides.

Such a void is a dangerous fire hazard and a serious breach of good building practice. This error, which may well have been the biggest single structural contribution to the disaster of the fire, arose from an unfortunate combination of circumstances at a time of intense activity. Mr Frank did not know the properties of Decalin and did not know that it was combustible.

On Oroglas the report comments: "The behaviour of a small burning sample gives little indication of the behaviour of the material in a fire. It is obvious that the rate of burning of Oroglas increases rapidly as it is heated by other burning material near to it."

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The fire at the Summerland leisure centre last August when 50 people died.

been presented, did not thereafter put design pencil to paper. The significant skills of designing and the decisions thus taken were passed successively to two job architects, neither of whom had been associated with this kind and magnitude of project before.

No one clients, authorities or architects ever stood back and looked at the project as a whole. Each could have done so, within the terms of their responsibilities. Neither principal, Mr Lomas nor Mr Barnett, did so, and Mr Lomas, with his duties to his client, was even willing to admit in evidence that he acted as a "post box" or conduit between Gillison Barnett and the parties on the island. It became clear that communications, particularly those of a decisive character, were indifferent between the two.

Quotations from letters which were written during the design period establish the kind of attitudes which sometimes arose. Examples are "we might as well go away with the theatre regulations" and "with a pinch of salt, and I do not think we need worry unduly on the town council will have to apply a waiver and I do not think for one moment that they will refuse it."

On the relationships between the Local Government Board of the Isle of Man Government, Douglas Corporation and the architects, the commission refers to the waiver of local by-laws affecting the use of non-traditional materials such as Oroglas, and comments that it was unfortunate that there was a lack of communication between the two authorities.

On the performance by the employees of Trust Houses (Leisure) Ltd, as lessee, the commission makes a number of stringent comments about the standards of fire precautions and escape drills.

There was evidence that five members of the staff were constituted as a team for the purpose of first-aid fire fighting. There was no satisfactory evidence that training and instruction were undertaken by any members of the first-aiding party.

No organized system of staff training existed and apart from the fire fighting party no member of the staff was given any duty or any instruction whatsoever as to his or her actions in the event of fire. The commission says the rapid spread of the fire was due in part to the design and construction of the building and in part to failure by staff to take prompt and appropriate action.

Of cardinal importance was the failure to call the fire brigade until 21 minutes after the discovery of the fire. The members of staff who tried to extinguish the fire were individually useless and no one thought of calling the fire brigade in time.

This delay in calling the fire brigade and the failure to use the automatic alarm for the purpose are symptomatic of the general unawareness of the management of Summerland at this time of the importance of making proper provision for a possible fire emergency by practical organization and training of staff.

It is an unfortunate and very regrettable fact that at the time of the fire a number of the doors intended for use as emergency exits were locked.

This was a particularly grave disregard of safety precautions because on two occasions previously the fire service had complained to the management of Summerland on finding exit doors padlocked, and assurance had been given that there would be no repetition.

The commission says relatively little about the original cause of the fire, the now proved setting alight of a kiosk alongside one of the walls by a group of three Liverpool schoolboys.

The commission's recommendations are: to the designing of a building of this type a named person should be in charge from the outset and

take and be known to be taking the major design decisions. Architects and clients should combine to consider carefully the requirements and performance of a building in use at the stage when conceptual designs are proposed, and before proceeding with details. Performance should embrace efficient and comfortable occupancy and usage, and safety, including safety to case of fire.

Building inspections during construction should be conducted formally and precisely, both by architects and local authority inspectors. They should be duly recorded to confirm that the building is being built in accordance with the approved plans and the relevant by-laws and regulations.

The commission's chapter of recommendations concludes with the words: "This terrible fire, one of the most rapidly developing fires ever to occur in a public building has not only left a temporary ruin on the island but a permanent scar in the minds of Manxmen. It was tragedy enough, but the commission believes it could have been even worse if Summerland had been occupied by 5,000 people later in the evening after dark, and this fire had started then."

Apart from Mr Justice Cantley, the two other members of the commission were Mr P. S. Wilson-Dickson, a fire expert, and Professor Denis Harper, of the building department of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

The commission sat for 49 days between November, 1973, and February this year, and heard evidence from 91 witnesses. Eight Queen's Counsel were among the legal representatives of interested parties, and the cost of the inquiry is estimated at £400,000.

Although the debate is in the held on an adjournment motion, it is a division which is highly improbable, there is no doubt that Opposition leaders want to give the closest scrutiny to the Government's statement.

Senior Foreign Office and Treasury civil servants have already completed a round of the capitals of the Nine, except Paris, preparing the ground for Mr Callaghan's statement on June 4, which is expected to be published in London as a White Paper.

There is no doubt that Europeanists at Westminster see some reason for believing that the Labour Government's commitment to renegotiation may be rather less radical than some other, more extreme, examples, works out at a little less than 5p a strawberry.

The first English strawberries are appearing at 20p to 25p for a 6oz punnet while the larger Italian ones are slightly cheaper. The best are arriving from France and cost 80p to £1.20 a pound. The cost of the largest, but not necessarily the best, examples, works out at a little less than 5p a strawberry.

Avocados are also in season and their importers are advertising vigorously. They cost about 15p each while a few shops have mangoes at 25p or 30p each. Both require careful examination before buying.

Prices of home-killed meat are still falling slightly, much to the chagrin of farmers and butchers. Poultry is steady with the industry mounting yet another promotion to sell frozen turkeys for the holiday weekend. The cheapest appears to be 26p a pound but most will cost 29p or 30p.

Cod, plaice and possibly fresh haddock should all be markedly cheaper today while many fish-

mongers between London and the South Coast are selling small Dover soles very cheaply.

Spring vegetables are now arriving in large quantities and are offering rather premature broad beans at 15p to 20p a pound to tempt those like me, who find their season cruelly short. Home-grown asparagus costs 75p for a neatly trimmed and bunched bunch while thick stumps are being sold loose for as little as 35p. The latter make good soup.

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WEST EUROPE

M Giscard d'Estaing cuts down pomp for his inauguration

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, May 23

To the dismay of officials at the Elysée, Palace M. Giscard d'Estaing has insisted on the simplest of ceremonies for his induction as President on Monday.

After the ceremony he will break with all precedent by walking up the Champs-Élysées to lay a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier, instead of driving in an open car with a mounted escort of the Republican Guard.

For the crowds in Paris the day will begin when the new President leaves his car at the corner of the Champs-Élysées and walks to the Elysée Palace, so that the people massed behind crash-barriers can have a good look and cheer him.

Morning coats have been done away with for the ceremony in the salle des fêtes. All the civic dignitaries present, including the President, will wear lounge suits. About 30 children from state school will be there with their teachers.

The Republican Guard in full dress will be missing at the salute to the flag on the terrace of the palace. Instead, a detachment of national servicemen from the Second Dragons, the regiment in which the new President served as a corporal at the end of the war, will present arms and the band will be provided by an infantry regiment.

During his walk up the Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe, military bands will play the revolutionary "Chant du Départ". M. Giscard d'Estaing's signature tune during the campaign.

All school-children will have a half holiday to watch the ceremonies on television—a decision which the left-wing teachers' unions have condemned as "demagogic".

He agreed with the new President on four basic principles of foreign policy: the preservation of the "European balance"; the rejection of any neutralization of central Europe; the creation of a European confederation and relations of equality with the United States. The only question is whether the two men get on together personally.

Since Pompidou's closest confidant of the new President, his campaign strategist and indispensable right-hand man, will most probably become Minister of the Interior, and his Foreign Minister, it is a later stage.

M. Jean Lecanuet, the president of the Democratic Centre, who after more than 10 years in opposition, powerfully contributed to M. Giscard d'Estaing's election, has been named as a big Ministry for Social Affairs. Since a bold policy of social reform was one of the conditions of M. Lecanuet's support, the appointment would be appropriate, although his task will be politically delicate.

The government will probably have "technocrats" in three or four posts and three women, including for the first time, a woman Minister of Justice. There has been only one woman in the past few governments.

Earlier this week, the possibility of a non-political "technician" being chosen was widely canvassed, but this idea has been ground and M. Joseph Fontanet, a youthful 53, and a Minister of Education in the

last government, is now considered a likely choice. He is a member of the centre's PDM party, and introduced a bold and highly controversial reform of secondary education. He came out in favour of M. Chaban-Delmas before the first ballot of the election, which makes him acceptable to the Gaullists.

The name of M. Jacques Chirac, the young and very ambitious Minister of the Interior, has also been mentioned as a possible choice. The Gaullist party against M. Chaban-Delmas, ostensibly for M. Messmer, but really for M. Giscard d'Estaing.

His appointment, however, would be like a red rag to many Gaullists who regard him as responsible for their electoral fiasco. It seems more likely that he will become Minister of Finance.

M. Giscard d'Estaing will keep overall control of foreign affairs, as did President Pompidou. But this does not exclude a second defence minister, the Quai d'Orsay. The name of M. Michel Jobert, a popular figure with the public, is increasingly mentioned.

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Earlier this week, the possibility of a non-political "technician" being chosen was widely canvassed, but this idea has been ground and M. Joseph Fontanet, a youthful 53, and a Minister of Education in the

last government, is now considered a likely choice. He is a member of the centre's PDM party, and introduced a bold and highly controversial reform of secondary education. He came out in favour of M. Chaban-Delmas before the first ballot of the election, which makes him acceptable to the Gaullists.

The name of M. Jacques Chirac, the young and very ambitious Minister of the Interior, has also been mentioned as a possible choice. The Gaullist party against M. Chaban-Delmas, ostensibly for M. Messmer, but really for M. Giscard d'Estaing.

His appointment, however, would be like a red rag to many Gaullists who regard him as responsible for their electoral fiasco. It seems more likely that he will become Minister of Finance.

M. Giscard d'Estaing will keep overall control of foreign affairs, as did President Pompidou. But this does not exclude a second defence minister, the Quai d'Orsay. The name of M. Michel Jobert, a popular figure with the public, is increasingly mentioned.

He agreed with the new President on four basic principles of foreign policy: the preservation of the "European balance"; the rejection of any neutralization of central Europe; the creation of a European confederation and relations of equality with the United States. The only question is whether the two men get on together personally.

Since Pompidou's closest confidant of the new President, his campaign strategist and indispensable right-hand man, will most probably become Minister of the Interior, and his Foreign Minister, it is a later stage.

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OVERSEAS

Impeachment inquiry in grim mood after President's refusal to obey present and future subpoenas

From Fred Emery
Washington, May 23

The House of Representatives impeachment inquiry continued in a grim mood after Mr. Nixon's express refusal to abide by present or future subpoenas for evidence. The President's edited tape transcripts were also described publicly as "inadequate and unsatisfactory," and should be treated with great reservation, by Mr. John Doar, chief counsel to the House judiciary committee.

Mr. Doar has now had time to compare some transcripts with the full tapes that have come into the House committee's possession. He said, he had found enough differences to make surrender of the actual tapes to the committee an imperative.

The President's defiance was termed "a very grave matter" by Mr. Peter Rodino, chairman of the impeachment committee. Vice-President Ford has again urged Mr. Nixon to cooperate with Congress, but not with the special prosecutor, whose right to pursue his separate subpoenas is being challenged by the President.

In a separate issue, the President has also been served two subpoenas from a federal court on behalf of his two former senior advisers, Mr. John Ehrlichman and Mr. Charles Colson. They face trial on conspiracy charges of covering up the White House "plumbers" breaking into the home of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. The President has until tomorrow to answer.

Judge Gerhard Gesell has said he may throw out the case if the Government does not supply evidence, as required under the law, that may prove exculpatory to defendants. (Ironically such government misconduct led to the case against Dr. Ellsberg himself being thrown out in the middle of the trial a year ago).

The luckless Senate Watergate committee today lost its appeal for the White House tapes it originally subpoenaed. The Court of Appeals upheld unanimously a lower court ruling that, in effect, the impeachment events had overtaken the Senate committee.

Senator Sam Ervin, whose investigations were the ones to cause Mr. Alexander Butterfield to blurt out that the President taped everything, has vowed that he will try taking his case to the Supreme Court, but it looks hopeless.

Virtually every one of Mr. Nixon's visitors these days admits to have been watching secretly for tell-tale signs of the strain he must be under. Yet all come away saying he looks fine. There are no quivers.

The latest group were the foreign ministers of the Central Treaty Organization, including Mr. Callaghan, the British Foreign Secretary, who all came away apparently feeling the President was bearing up astonishingly well. He looked a little dark round the eyes, but so did everyone in Washington from the sort of work being put in.

The President was thought to be impressively briefed on Central affairs. He gave special attention to Mr. Aziz Ahmed, the Pakistan Foreign Minister. Mr. Nixon brought the focus of conversation back to him continually, well knowing the concern over India's nuclear explosion.

Standing behind the man as he spoke of foreign policy, could be sensed, it was said, the continuing might and stability of the United States, whatever happened to him. That was what mattered in foreign policy and it could all be pursued in spite of impeachment. Of course, there were problems, but it did not change the fundamentals of American strength.

Peter Strafford writes from New York: Father John McLaughlin, the ebullient Jesuit priest who is employed in a public relations job at the White House, has been called to order by his religious superior over the strong support he gave to President Nixon in a recent press conference, defending the President's use of swear words.

Father Richard Cleary, the regional provincial of the Jesuits for New England, said in Boston yesterday that he was summoning Father McLaughlin for an eight-day retreat. He was asking him to pray about his situation and reflect with me.

Father McLaughlin said today that he had not yet decided whether to obey Father Cleary's summons.

Hearst case gang perplexes the FBI

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, May 23

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is perplexed by the so-called Symbionese Liberation Army. Mr. Clarence Kelley, the FBI Director, has not been afraid repeatedly to say in public that his "G-men" had no idea where Miss Patricia Hearst was being held originally in San Francisco.

Now, with his men issuing a "Wanted" notice for her as a dangerous criminal, the situation has hardly changed. Even the Los Angeles shootouts were luck rather than detection.

Clearly, this group of well-educated terrorists is of great preoccupation to the FBI; not least because its elusiveness is an embarrassment to an agency that prides itself on getting its fugitives.

It is true, if unnoticed, that during the Hearst affair 15 other cases of kidnapping have occurred here and all have been solved with the help of the FBI. Virtually all the ransom money has been recovered and all the kidnappers captured. That success only points up the inability to trace the SLA.

The fact that its associates have been able to resist a reward offer said to have been double the \$50,000 (\$20,000) publicized also is inexplicable.

One conclusion being drawn is that the FBI must have its powers to tap telephones restored. It is intended to use the SLA incident as ammunition to persuade Congress to change the law.

India is accused of opening nuclear road

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, May 23

Mr. Agha Shahi, the Pakistani delegate told the 25-nation Disarmament Conference here today that a new situation, full of menace to neighbouring countries, had arisen after India's detonation of an underground nuclear device.

The barrier to nuclear proliferation interposed by the non-proliferation treaty has been demolished," he said. "The road has been thrown open for the emergence of a seventh and an eighth nuclear power, for Israel and South Africa to emulate India's example, with all the consequences to the peace and security of the Middle East and southern Africa that must inevitably follow for those already explosive regions."

Mr. Shahi said India's surreptitious entry into the nuclear club was a severe blow to hopes that nations of the southern Asian subcontinent could devote their attention and resources exclusively to the elimination of poverty and distress afflicting countless millions.

In choosing the nuclear option, India had spent, according to United Nations sources, over \$150m (about 562m) annually for the past decade at least.

Mr. Brajesh Mishra, the Indian delegate, referred critics to the letter sent by Mrs. Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to Mr. Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister.

Later Mr. Mishra told correspondents that India's rocket programme was "proceeding normally," with testing going on at a range in southern India. Some technological aid was being provided by the United Nations.

Delegates of Nigeria, Britain, Canada and Holland expressed varying degrees of regret that India had decided to explode a nuclear device.

Our Delhi Correspondent writes: Mrs. Gandhi, assured Mr. Bhutto in her letter that India's "peaceful" explosion of a nuclear device last Saturday did not pose any threat to Pakistan's security.

Mrs. Gandhi is understood to have reaffirmed that her Government has no intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons. She also recalled that both India and Pakistan were pledged to waive their differences peacefully under the 1972 Simla Agreement.

Mrs. Gandhi's letter was presumably prompted by Mr. Bhutto's angry reaction in Lahore last Sunday to India's test when he accused India of "brandishing the sword of nuclear blackmail."

Mr. Bhutto also gave a warning that the test would have an adverse effect on the process of normalizing Indo-Pakistan relations.

Our Washington Correspondent writes: The Central Treaty Organization (CTO) "took note" disapprovingly of India's nuclear test in the communiqué closing its annual ministerial meeting here last night.

The Foreign Ministers of Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Britain—with Mr. Kenneth Rush, Acting Secretary of State, observing—expressed their "opposition to nuclear proliferation."

Nepal bans German climbers for three years

From Our Correspondent
Kathmandu, May 23

Nepal has imposed a three-year climbing ban on the Oberland Sektion of the German Alpine Club after the unauthorized climbing of a Himalayan peak in April.

A fine of \$600 (about £250) has also been imposed on the defaulting expedition, which was led by Herr Peter Beednar, an engineer from Munich.

The penalty is the most severe imposed since 1930, when Nepal first allowed a climbing expedition in. The three-year ban will run from the end of this year's monsoon season.

A Nepal Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the action was taken after thorough investigation and keeping in mind "the need for strict discipline and regularity in mountaineering activities."

The German expedition was given permission to scale Annapurna 2, in western Nepal but instead climbed Annapurna 4.

Three of the eight members—Herr George Gruber, aged 30, Herr Heinz Huth, aged 30, and Herr Franz Leutgeb, aged 26—climbed Annapurna 4 on April 26. When the message of their success was received by the Foreign Ministry it asked them to cease their attempt on Annapurna 2 and return to Kathmandu at once. One of the three told journalists on his arrival here early this month that they did not climb Annapurna 4.

Soviet olive branch to Peking on waterways

Moscow, May 23.—The Soviet Union today offered to co-operate with China over improving navigation conditions in waterways along their common frontier if China respected Soviet territorial integrity.

Tass said the Soviet Foreign Ministry today handed a Note to the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow declaring that "the Soviet side sees no difficulties in the solution of the question of the passage of Chinese vessels through Soviet inland waterways."

The statement particularly mentioned the Amur and Ussuri rivers, the scene of Sino-Soviet armed clashes some five years ago, which run along the frontier.

The Note added that the passage of Chinese vessels through Soviet waterways depended on whether China returned to "the positions of respect of the sovereign rights and territorial integrity of the Soviet Union."

Failure to come to agreement on the question led to a worsening of relations, culminating in the 1969 border clashes.

In addition, the Soviet press has printed several attacks on Peking over the past few weeks because of the continued Chinese detention of a Soviet military helicopter and its crew, who made a forced landing on the Chinese side of the frontier in March. Moscow has asked the International Red Cross to intervene.—Reuters.

Commonwealth development bank proposed

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

The establishment of a Commonwealth development bank will be considered by financial experts of Britain, Canada, India, Nigeria, Kenya and Jamaica when they meet in London from May 28 to June 7.

The bank could help developing Commonwealth countries which can compete in delivery dates and prices of exports—against industrial countries, but cannot match their credit facilities. The bank could also help to finance joint ventures between Commonwealth countries.

The British Commonwealth Development Corporation has during the past 10 years assisted development and has also benefited British trade, with the profits ploughed back to expand its own operations. A similar institution supported by several Commonwealth countries could, it is argued, help to develop the trade of members on a wider (multilateral) basis.

The experts who will discuss this project have been nominated by their Governments and selected by Mr. Arnold Smith, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, they will meet again in July and report to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting in the autumn.

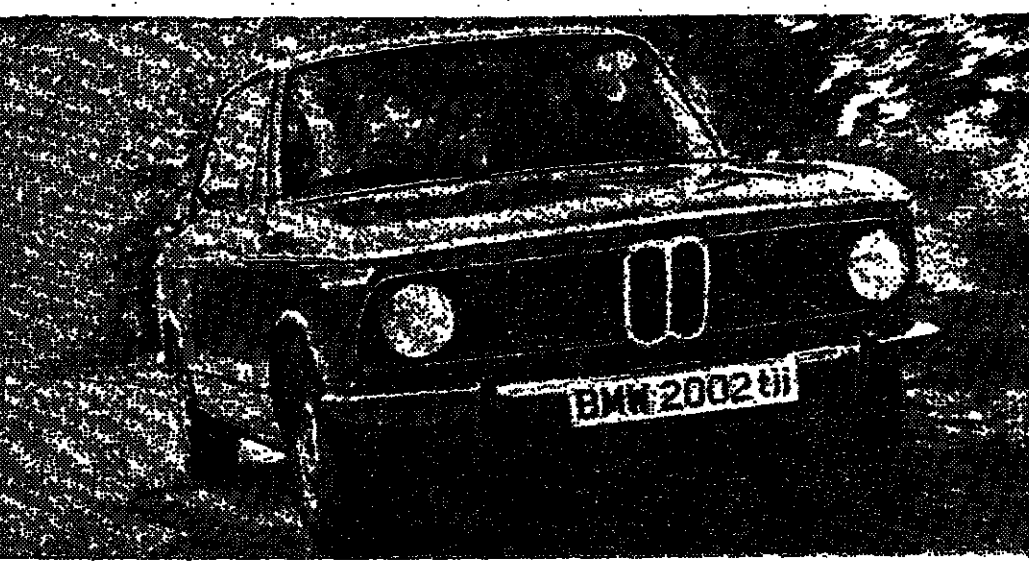
German jailed in Greece for leaflet protest

From Our Correspondent
Athens, May 23

Herr Günter Walltraff, the West German writer, was today sentenced by the Athens special military court to 14 months' imprisonment for violating the martial law. He chained himself to a lamp-post in Constitution Square two weeks ago to distribute anti-regime literature.

He said he had intended to demonstrate with the Greek people, "if this was turned into a public lesson in fascism, this is scarcely my fault", he added.

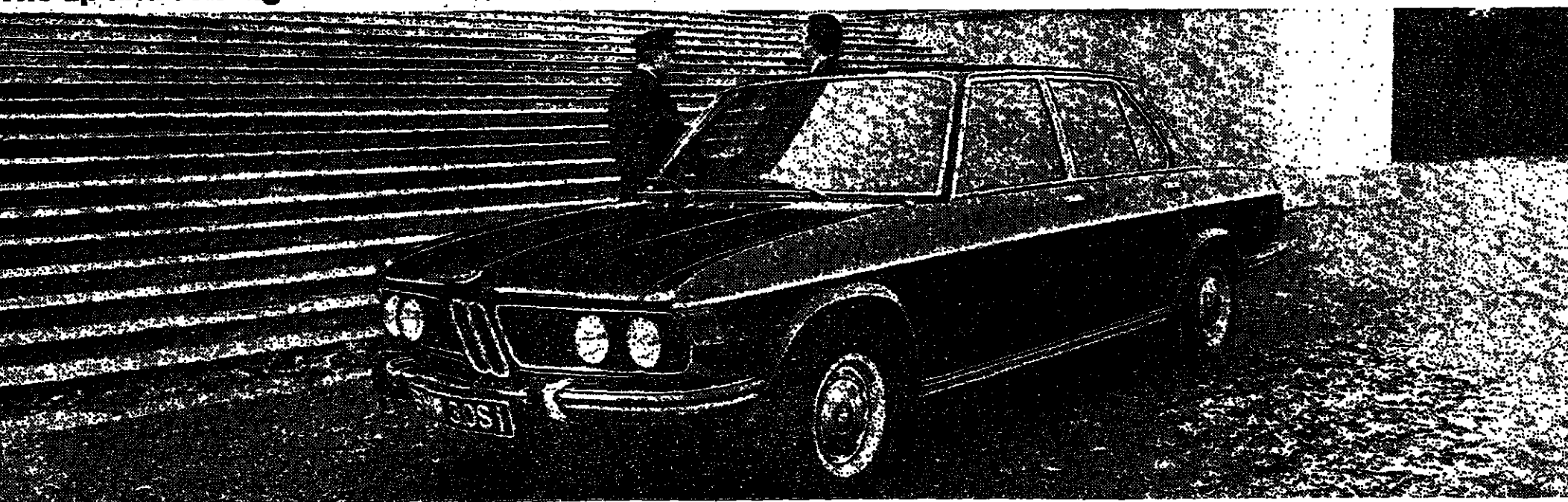
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'The up and coming' BMW 2002ti 0-60 in 9.0 secs. Top speed 116 mph. 41 mpg.



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Dr Soares says Portugal must profit from the decolonizing experience of Britain and others

Government sources indicated that the return was not on the initiative of Portugal's provisional Government. However, the Junta of National Salvation, headed by General Spínola, who is also President of the Republic, exists as a powerful separate entity from the Government, for whose appointment it was responsible.

74

that there is less chance of them achieving their full objectives for complete independence if they are not united in their demands.

Wiriyamu investigator on mission to Lisbon

The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution setting up the commission of inquiry on December 12, 1973.

English law

Beirut accusation of British prejudice

went home last night after receiving treatment. They are believed to have eaten fritters sold in a market. —Agence France-Presse.

Visit to disse

Kissinger optimism on Golan peace

enter refuse

Treaty of Rome introduces new commercial torts into English law

Later, however, Gaz took exception to the venture. They had long

But so long as Gaz insisted on the claim for an injunction the amendments could not be refused provided they raised points which were fairly arguable. After all, they were abusing their dominant position and acting in concert.

laws with their own remedies they had always done; but the national courts should not enforce such rights in any case where such enforcement would impede the free movement of goods within the

mother said that he was terrified of needles. The recorder ruled that his excuse was incapable of belief, reasonable and directed the jury to convict.

because he shared the common experience of adolescents in fainting at injections or the thought of the this grown man genuinely suffering from an invincible repugnance to any use of the needle, and that

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 35 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 17 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).



allowed to excuse failure to provide a laboratory test specimen, and most if not all cases where the failure of providing it was claimed to be invincible, the claim would have been supported by medical evidence.

again been refused permission to visit her sick son, whom she has not seen since last October.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Only obtainable where y

national Red Cross, she feared her son might have a serious liver disease but was allowed to see him.

you see this sign  

Sheila Black

Shopping around



● I still rave about Club pans, which I have been using for a year. They are of cast aluminium, coated with tough enamel. The ringed bases of these pans spread the heat, and they are really designed for virtually waterless cooking. They are as good as the old-fashioned cast-iron pans, but with the advantage of being light and easy to use.

Turn off the heat before cooking is finished, and see how long the pan keeps the food hot. They are also available with a Teflon coating.

Club pans cost a bit more than ordinary ones but they are worth it. For example, a 1 1/2pt saucepan, with lid, is about £4.95. A generous-sized chicken fryer (illustrated, back left of picture) is about £9.35. The big roasting pan, with high lid, is about £11.95.

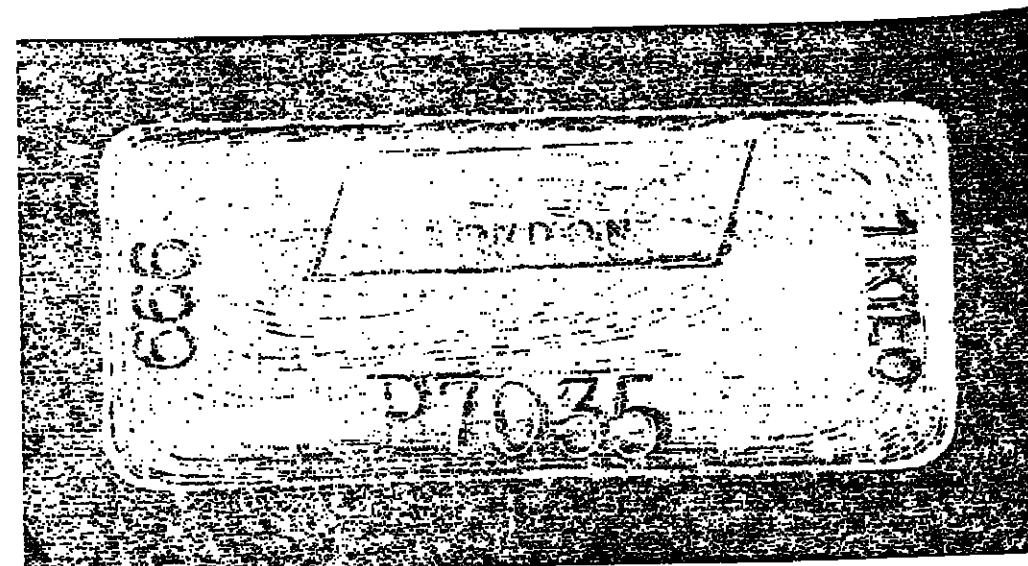
Get leaflets, stockists and details from Premier Services, 11 Central Hill, London SE19 1BG. The new milk pan, which is only in the Teflon-lined finish, has lips on both sides for left or right-handed pouring.

● Premier is also importing a superb range of pale, pine woodware from Finland; expensive, but beautiful. The blocks of wood are laminated, which makes for strength and elegance.

In the front of the photograph, on the left, is a circular cheese board with a looped rope on its centre, upright handle (at about £3.20, give or take a few pence and according to where you shop for it); next to it are a couple of plain boards, a little one for chopping (£1.60) and a bigger one for carving, chopping or serving (about £4.30). A rounded board, back row, right, is good for bread, joints, cold meats, cheeses, serving, chopping or anything.

The salad bowl is a block of wood 7in high by 9in square, hollowed-out in the middle. The price is about £19.90. Details of stockists from Premier Services of the above address.

Photographs by Trevor Sutton



SILVER KILOBAR PAPERWEIGHT

"A solid investment" - *The Times*.

"If you fancy a small gamble on silver, and could do with an unusual paperweight as well, take a look at this Kilobar Paperweight." - *The Financial Times*.

The above drawing shows the actual-sized Silver Kilobar 'Paperweight', which measures 4 1/2 inches x 2 inches x 1/2 inch, and contains over 2.2 pounds of pure silver. Each bar is presented in its own velvet-lined case, and makes an ideal gift. We will engrave your name, initials, message, etc., on the ingot, with no extra cost for up to 25 letters. Each Silver Kilobar is stamped with the dealer's mark, seal and number, as well as '1 KILO' and '999' (the fraction of pure silver in the bar). The value of silver *quadrupled* in the 2 years ending February 1974. In fact the value of silver more than *doubled* in the first 2 months of this year. Each Kilobar should therefore be considered as an heirloom investment.

Today's price of the Silver Kilobar 'Paperweight' is £125* (inc. V.A.T.). This price also includes the presentation case, engraving and insured delivery. Immediate despatch for the first 50 ingots ordered. Otherwise delivery is 10-25 days.

*Today's price guaranteed for all orders received within 10 days.

HERITAGE CLUB, 407 Holloway Rd., London N7 6HJ. Tel: 01-607 1620, 9. Telex: 262420.

I would like to order _____ Silver Kilobar 'Paperweight(s)' at £125 Each* (inc. V.A.T.).

Please accept my enclosed cheque for £ _____.

Please engrave the following: _____

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ADDRESS _____

Summer

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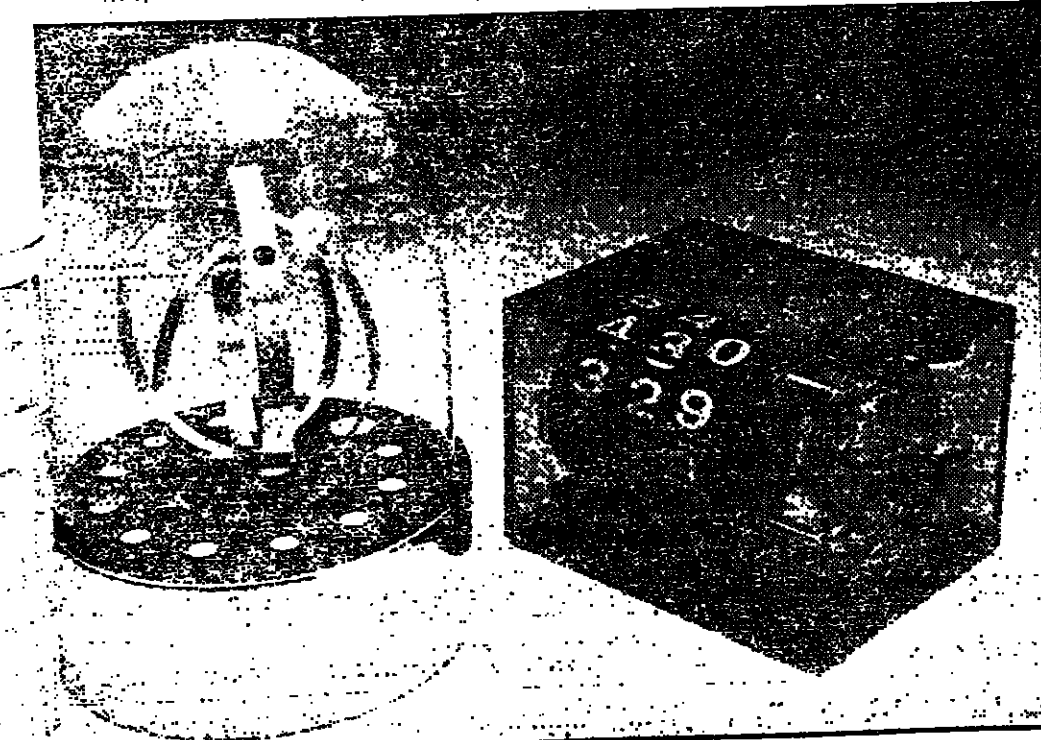
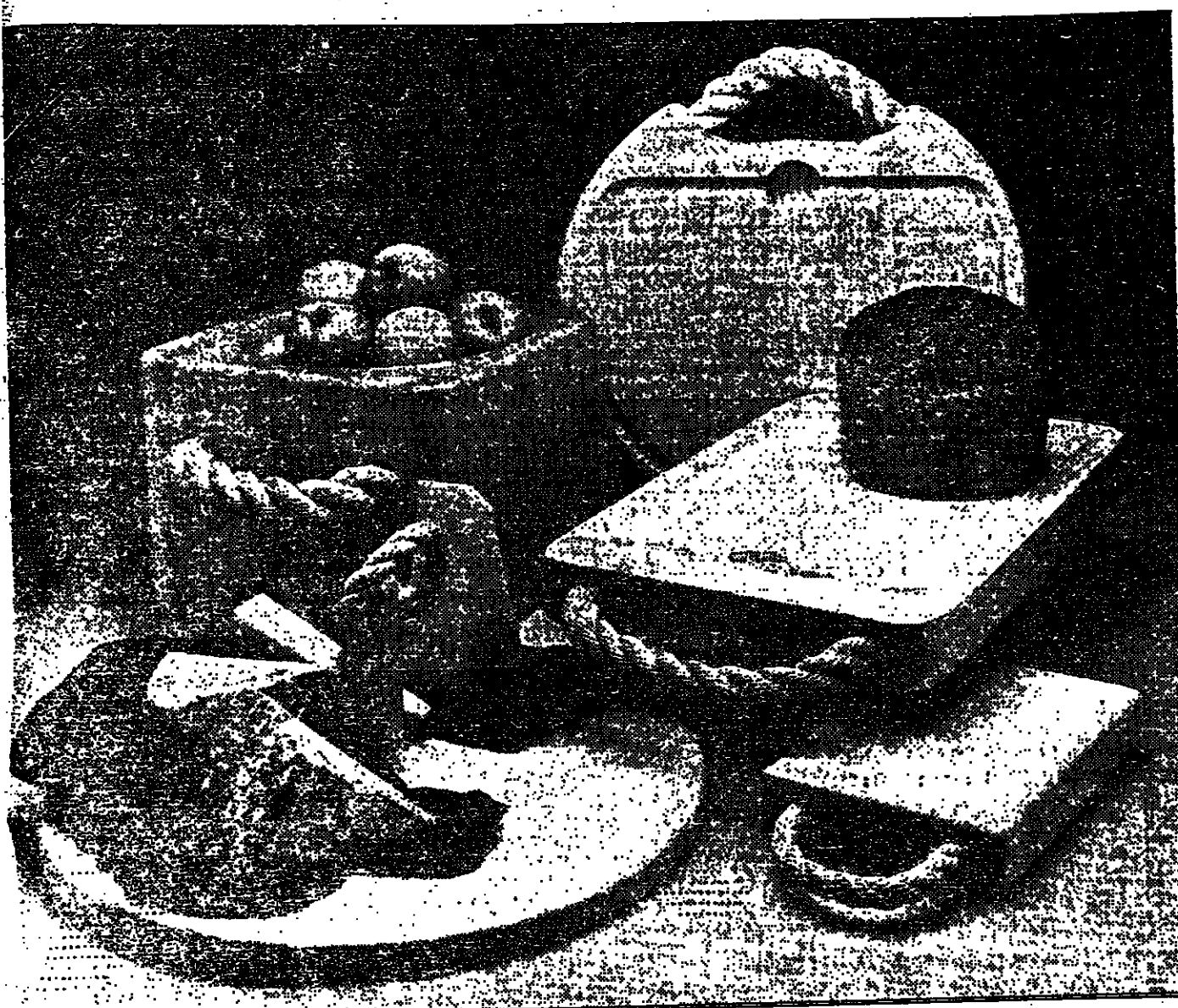
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● I recently chose as a wedding present the named towels about which I have written before. They have the ends embroidered, to order, with names or even with brief messages. The firm now has a printed colour leaflet giving prices (hand towels are £1.90, bath towels £3.40, and giant beach towels are £5.20-plus 30p postage).

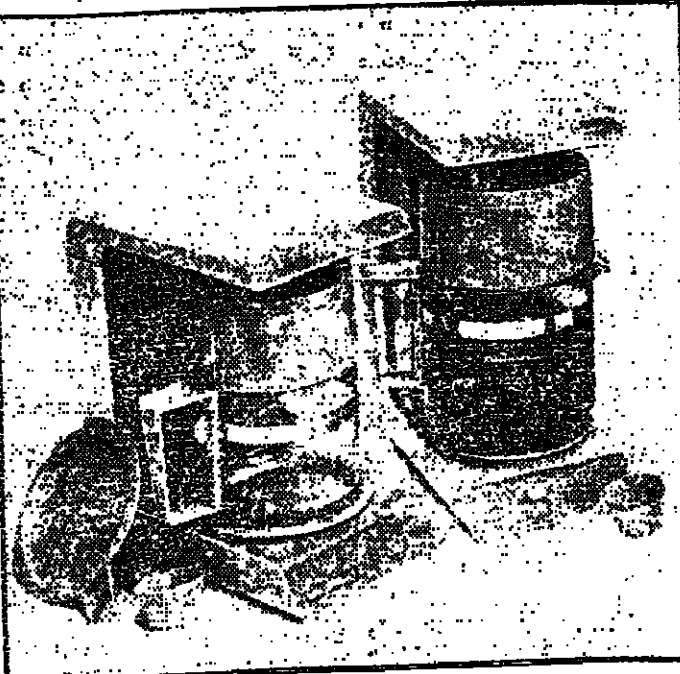
The towels take about three weeks to deliver, are of good, deep pile and quality, in rich colours (turquoise, mimosa, Oxford blue, white, orange, and cerise). The embroidery is white and the name or message limited to 16 letters. Romantics, they say, order "My Darling" towels, but there are others who ask for "Chauvinist pig". Businesses are buying the hand towels as promotional gifts, at discounts for quantity. Personal buyers are having fun thinking up 16-letter messages. The address is Barlow and Associate, Dept 1, Broad Oak Close, Adlington, Chorley, Lancashire.

Digit Clock is nifty, without an opaque so that you can see all the works, including tary if you turn it sideways. The clock can be encased in opaque plastic—choose from orange, red, blue, mauve, black, and a 1st or satin finish that looks like chrome. It about £25.

Hoop Clock has a polished chrome base.

a glass dome and a battery movement—it has to be studied from above to give the time clearly. The price is £28. Both clocks are in an original range from Chrison Associates—there is one called La Posh which looks like a giant rectangular wrist watch supported on a steel bracelet (£25). Stockists and illustrated leaflets from Chrison Associates, 9/12 Brandon Road, London N7.

● Moulinex may not have made it first, but Moulinex does make it relatively cheaply. The firm has often been described as the Ford of the domestic appliance business, and the comparison is intended to be flattering. The latest piece from Moulinex is an electrical filter for coffee. The six-cup model is £9.95 and the 12-cup is £11.95 (VAT included). The insulated jug handle, filter holder, jug lid and measure are all in coffee-coloured plastic, and the jug is finished with a stainless steel trim. In most Moulinex stockists now—and there are plenty of those. For stockists and a colour leaflet showing the whole Moulinex range, write to the firm at Station Approach, Coulsdon North, Coulsdon, Surrey.



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Bannerman puts out Jackin then loses to Fernandez

By Lewine Mair

After fulfilling the prediction he made on Wednesday night—that he would defeat Jackin—Harry Bannerman lost by three strokes to Vicente Fernandez, of Argentina, in the third round of the Piccadilly medal match-play golf tournament at Pinhorn Park, Coventry, yesterday afternoon. "I couldn't," said Bannerman, whose long game had been under control all morning, "keep the ball in play off the tee."

On the subject of his five-stroke victory over Jackin, Bannerman explained that he had felt inspired: "I always feel this way when I am playing something better than myself."

Right from the start Jackin had been in trouble on the greens, the reason, in Bannerman's opinion, being that Jackin's hands were not working together. After taking a five to Bannerman's four at the first, Jackin lost the honour and never got it back.

Three shots behind and with three to play Jackin swung uncharacteristically fast at his second down the 519-yard 18th. His ball finished in the bunker and the roots of a large tree—something which must have convinced him, "finally, that this, simply, was not his day. The short 17th hole delivered in three, Bannerman getting it "up and down" from a tangle of wet rough down a bank at the back of the green, and Jackin taking his side of the 18th green, Jackin took four more to get down, his first attempt to escape from the trap being disturbed by the click of a club.

The shot which, in retrospect,

Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Yds	Par
1	483	5	110	4
2	407	4	11	3
3	328	4	12	3
4	387	4	13	5
5	172	3	14	3
6	537	5	15	2
7	153	3	16	5
8	361	4	17	4
9	330	4	18	5
Out	3,143	36	In	3,382

Mrs Head could challenge for English title

By Peter Ryde

Golf Correspondent

Mrs Elizabeth Head moved into the reckoning at Sunningdale yesterday when, playing over Mrs Dinah Benson, she won the semi-final round of the English women's golf championship. As Mrs Head, she is remembered as a few years back as a powerful hitter whose short game was as yet uncoordinated.

A spell as a professional and marriage removed Mrs Head from the amateur scene, and only this year has she returned to county golf. In the interval a short visit to the United States changed her whole attitude and she has come back seemingly more mature and with a well kept game, that is, the evidence of her fairway, but if her nerve holds and she plays as well as yesterday she could well win the championship.

Well kept, quite the word for Mrs Benson, formerly Miss Ordley. Following her was like trying the lucky dip, never quite knowing what was coming out next, though as we neared the bottom of the barrel the chances were that it would be a hook. She made a par start and at the fifth Mrs Head played a shot which, early as it was in the round, was a match winner.

From the second bunker on the right of the fairway she hit a six iron on to the green and holed a giant putt to win a hole she looked likely to lose. She went further ahead when her opponent hit a perfect shot with the wrong club which finished over the back of the eighth. Mrs Head was in as well as the crowd reasonably expect in coming to suddenly back to the game, but against anyone prepared to go up to the top of her game, Mrs Head's confidence was bound to tell.

Mrs Head meets Miss Irvin, whose competitive spirit she has shown, though she was hardly at her best. After losing the first to Miss Porter, she won the next five and then Miss Porter, after having turned the seventh into a half, won the next four in 3, 3, 5, 3. Miss Irvin reassured herself by winning the long 14th hole in 17, but her opponent with two shots to the 17th, but it was not an entirely convincing display against one whose chief weapon now is her resilience.

The other semi-final will oppose Jill Thornhill to Carol Le Feuvre. Mrs Thornhill has a fine drive but it came out of it well. It was only at the 16th and 17th that she turned

Bannerman felt had won him this memorable victory was the second he struck with a three-wood from the bank of a bunker on the 13th. The ball pulling up just short of the green. Out of this world was the phrase this cheerful character used to describe the blow.

Bannerman's caddy yesterday was a diminutive 13-year-old school-boy with a 24 handicap who had received permission from his mother to ride than his headmaster, to caddy for his hero. He foresaw no trouble whatever in shouldering the clubs for the second round, but after the Jackin match, Bannerman had asked him to walk on water, he would, no doubt, have attempted that as well.

One of the more unexpected flashes of the day was that involving David Chillas and Peter Dawson. Chillas, who later confessed that he had more or less given up after going three behind on the 17th, pulled his drive down the 375 yard 18th. He knocked his second over trees in the general direction of the green and though unable to see for himself, soon realized, from the applause, that he had done it. Dawson, who was standing by, pulled his drive down the 375 yard 18th. He knocked his second over trees in the general direction of the green and though unable to see for himself, soon realized, from the applause, that he had done it.

Under the unexpected pressure, Dawson missed from 18th for his four and the match, and the two men proceeded down the 19th. In three, Bannerman getting it "up and down" from a tangle of wet rough down a bank at the back of the green, and Jackin taking his side of the 18th green, Jackin took four more to get down, his first attempt to escape from the trap being disturbed by the click of a club.

The shot which, in retrospect, Mrs Head could challenge for English title. Mrs Head moved into the reckoning at Sunningdale yesterday when, playing over Mrs Dinah Benson, she won the semi-final round of the English women's golf championship. As Mrs Head, she is remembered as a few years back as a powerful hitter whose short game was as yet uncoordinated.

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Harry Bannerman . . . memorable victory, then defeat.

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R. C. (Nelson), 74, best G. B. (Nelson), 74, best G. B. (Nelson), 74.	F. Fernandez (Argentina), 74, beat P. E. G. (

Ulster minister attacks Mr Paisley for 'making a mockery of the Christianity I learnt'

House of Commons

MR MERLYN REES, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Leeds, South, Lab.), in a statement on matters arising from, or connected with, the Sunningdale agreement regarding the Council of Ireland, policing, detention and the report of the Law Enforcement Commission, said:

The House will be aware that the Northern Ireland Executive issued last night a statement on the basis upon which it is prepared to proceed in relation to the Council of Ireland. I have, on behalf of HM Government, welcomed this statement which provides a realistic and sensible basis for the North and South of Ireland.

The proposals now put forward carefully protect the interests of both communities and are consistent with the overall requirements in the Constitution Act that there can be no change in the status of Northern Ireland without the consent of the majority of the people in Northern Ireland.

It is good sense that there should be institutions in Ireland as a whole so that the people there should be able to work together in the interest of all.

Police authority

The Sunningdale agreement also provided for a limited, and carefully defined, role for a Council of Ministers in relation to the police. In particular, HM Government undertook that appointments to the Northern Ireland police authority would be made in consultation with the Northern Ireland Executive, which would consult with the Council of Ministers.

In addition, steps have been taken to set up an all-party committee from the Assembly to examine how best to introduce effective policing throughout Northern Ireland with particular reference to the need to achieve public satisfaction with the police. That committee will meet shortly.

Problems in having a summer election

After the business for the week following the Whitman recess was announced, MR PALMER (Bristol, North-East, Lab.) asked the Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House: As an important decision will soon be taken on the future of Concorde, will he arrange for a full day's debate before any decision is taken?

MR SHORT (Newcastle upon Tyne, Central, Lab.) said that the Government had not reached a decision and are not likely to in the next few weeks. I will bear in mind what he said.

MR MATHER (Essex, C.)—Can he confirm or deny reports in the Daily Mirror that if there is a July or August election, those on the Government's side will be allowed a full day's debate?

MR SHORT—The Prime Minister has asked officials to study the problems involved in having a summer election and to look at the precedents.

MR FELL (Yarmouth, C.)—Following last night's extraordinary decision to set up a select committee on MPs' interests, when will he be able to announce the membership of the committee and how long will they be given to report?

MR SHORT—The names will be announced today and approval sought tomorrow (Friday). It can start work immediately after the Whitman recess. There is no explicit time in the resolution but the committee were asked to report at the earliest possible moment on matters relating to members' interests.

MR TORNEY (Bradford, South, Lab.)—Following the BBC programme linking the cause of heart disease with the consumption of natural foods like butter, cheese and eggs, most of the national newspapers—and here I have the Times—carried a full page advertisement which linked the programme with this advert. I would feel there is some collusion between Unilever and the BBC.

As it is necessary to have a declaration of members' interests, does he feel there should be a declaration of producers and other executives?

MR SHORT—It will give me great pleasure to refer his words to the Home Secretary.

Parliamentary Notices

House of Commons
Today at 11.00: Adjournment for the Whitman recess until Monday, June 10.

Compulsory use of car belts wanted by end of 1975

House of Lords
LORD HARRIS of GREENWICH, Minister of State, Home Office, in the second reading of the Road Traffic Bill, said it was broadly similar to that introduced by the previous government and interrupted by the present one. The previous Bill contained a number of proposals on bus licensing and these had been criticised by both sides of industry. The Secretary of State for the Environment was taking further discussions about rural transport problems.

The power to ban stopping of vehicles near urban junctions had been dropped in this Bill. It would have given rise to a number of practical problems. Proposals allowing people under 21 to be trained for driving heavy goods vehicles were still being reviewed. It was a general fact that in 1972 of the 2,500,000 fixed penalty parking notices issued in England and Wales payment had been made in only two-thirds of the cases and then only after a million offenders escaped payment. The Bill provided for changes in procedure so that vehicle owners were responsible.

The Government viewed the introduction of the owner liability scheme as essential to arrest the decline in the enforcement of the fixed penalty system.

At Sunningdale, HM Government gave a firm commitment to bring detention to an end in Northern Ireland for all sections of the community as soon as the security situation permits. That remains HM Government's policy and, alongside the usual thought given to the best way in which persons released from detention can be helped to re-establish themselves in their local communities.

The problem of fugitive offenders was left unresolved at Sunningdale and, following the conference, HM Government and the Irish Government jointly set a committee to advise them on the most effective means, from a legal point of view, of bringing to justice fugitive political offenders in Ireland. The commission completed their work and presented their report to both Governments on April 25. I have today laid the report before the House.

Crimes of violence
HM Government and the Irish Government reaffirm the view expressed by all parties at Sunningdale that persons committing crimes of violence, however motivated, should be brought to trial in the part of Ireland in which they are located. Agreement should be reached on the basis of the commission's report and a statement in similar terms is being made to the Northern Ireland Executive.

The commission considered, but rejected, the establishment of mixed courts comprising judges from Northern Ireland and the Republic and also, as not offering a practicable immediate solution, the setting up of an all-Ireland court.

The commission agreed that it would be legally feasible to confer power on the courts in both parts of Ireland to try persons charged with certain specified crimes wherever in Ireland they were committed. This would be a method which could be introduced quickly.

The two Governments have agreed that there will be the cooperation of the police forces in the investigation of offences.

The decision not to continue at present with compulsory feeding, which was taken on Sunday, was based, not on a policy of allowing them to die, but on a recognition of the dangers involved in continuing with compulsory feeding in the new circumstances.

On the question of transfer to Northern Ireland, indicated in a letter to Lord Brockway in March, a letter which was widely publicized at the time, that I would consider this matter in the future, and when, in the course of a few months, a decision on transfer from Britain became necessary in any case, I would consider it.

But I do not think that, at the present time, in present circumstances, I could add to the burdens of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland by asking him to consider the transfer of prisoners in the state of affairs there.

MR LAINE (Cambridge, C.)—We appreciate the difficulty of the decision he has to take in these questions. We support the spirit of what he said in the last sentence or two.

MR JENKINS made it clear that he will not be influenced by any coercion and that in any decision on when, whether, and where to move the Price Sisters, the paramount consideration must be security? (Conservative cheers.)

MR JENKINS—I have made clear that I will have regard to legitimate, humanitarian and security considerations, but I do not think it could be right for any Home Secretary to decide the disposition of prisoners under duress.

MR KERR (Hounslow, Feltham and Heston, Lab.)—In a matter as politically sensitive as this it is dangerous to let the decision be taken exclusively in medical hands.

MR JENKINS—Decisions about movement of prisoners are not of course in medical hands. The decision whether to give compulsory feeding or not must be a political decision. It is not possible to say that any layman should issue directions.

MR BEITH (Barwick upon Trent, Lab.)—The majority in this country consider that Mr Jenkins has a duty to ensure that the Price Sisters are not in the hands of the medical profession in Ireland should have been thought of what they first came here. Increasing number of us are doubtful about the whole force feeding process and would like to see it stopped.

MR JENKINS—On his point: Is it not Home Office policy to allow prisoners to starve rather than force feed? The decision to force feed should be a matter of medical judgment. This is not subject to any political considerations.

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The United Kingdom members made it clear that they would not accept the extradition of persons to the Republic of Ireland for trial in the Republic of Ireland for political offences. This is a matter of principle and will not be overruled.

The two Governments have also agreed that special arrangements should be made to encourage witnesses to travel into the Republic of Ireland to give evidence and to include in their respective legislation provisions to enable, in cases where witnesses are unwilling to travel, evidence to be taken on commission in the presence of a judge of the Republic of Ireland in the case of the commission recommended.

I am confident that the agreement I have announced will be an important contribution towards bringing to trial those responsible for terrorism in Ireland. Equally important, however, is the prevention of acts of terrorism and the apprehension of those who are responsible.

Both Governments believe that there is scope for improving border security and deterring those who do, and I shall very soon be meeting Mr. Jones, the Irish Minister for Justice, to discuss what can be done to improve further the existing co-operation between the police forces on both sides of the border.

The tragic strike, which affects the life and welfare of every ordinary man and woman in Northern Ireland, must be in the forefront of all our minds. But this must not deter us from proceeding with measures which will bring about a more secure and peaceful Northern Ireland and to which I have referred in the statement.

Realities and truth
MR PAIN (Cambridge, C.)—The Government have agreed about the situation in Northern Ireland. Now that the parties in the executive have agreed about

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Requests for application forms and further particulars should be made, in writing, to the Secretary, Appointments Unit (South Western Region), Room 112, 38 Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6DD.

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 14th June, 1974.

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Remuneration will not be less than £5,000 in salary, plus commission. The successful candidates can realistically set their income objectives at over £10,000 as they contribute to our Company's growth.

All replies will be treated confidentially.

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Applications, with details of age, education, qualifications, experience and career to date, and names of two referees, to the Chief Executive Officer, Kingswood District Council, South View, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 5PL, not later than 10th June, 1974.

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An Industrial Relations SECRETARY is required by a National Employers' Organisation in Westminster.

This is a responsible post, involving contact with Government Departments, allied bodies, members and trade unions; Committee and Conciliation Board work; and the preparation of analyses and reports.

Applicants should be aged 30-40; have a degree in law or economics; experience in industrial relations; and an aptitude for high quality written work.

Salary in the range £4,000 to £5,000 depending on qualifications and experience.

Applications, giving full details, to the
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Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors,
Romney House, Tufon Street, London, SW1P 3DU.

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Applications are invited from personnel specialists who are able to show a successful record of personnel management in industry. Preferred age 35. The appointment offers the opportunity to join a small head office team and could lead to either further promotion at the head office or to a senior line post, at Director or Senior Manager level, in a subsidiary company.

Salary negotiable around £5,500 with company car and good conditions of employment.

Please apply in the strictest confidence quoting reference number 1574 to Clive & Stokes, 14 Bolton Street, London, W1Y 8JL.

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Appointments & Personnel Consultants

procurement manager

Head Wrightson, leaders in the heavy capital goods sector of engineering, with worldwide markets, require a Procurement Manager for their largest subsidiary company, Head Wrightson Teesdale Limited. He will be responsible for procurement of equipment and materials to the value of £8m. p.a.

Applicants should ideally be aged 35 to 45 with considerable experience of the procurement function.

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This is a senior appointment and it is unlikely that salary will be a restricting factor for the right man. Other attractive benefits include company car, an excellent pension scheme, free life insurance, generous holidays and assistance with removal expenses where appropriate.

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HEAD WRIGHTSON



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The Board seeks a man or woman to head up its small development team. Specific duties will be:

- to contribute towards the determination of regional development priorities and assist in their implementation;
- to maintain close contact with potential developers, government agencies, local authority officers, etc., who are able to influence and/or finance tourist development;
- to supervise special feasibility studies and associated surveys for major tourist projects.

The successful applicant will have a sound financial/commercial background, preferably in the tourism/leisure field; the ability to communicate well both verbally and in writing; and be capable of leading and motivating the small development team. Appropriate professional qualifications might be in town and country planning, architecture, civil engineering or accountancy. Preferred age 28-40. Salary range £4,100-£4,900 p.a.

Please apply fully and in confidence to the Director of Development and Regional Liaison, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DU by 12 June 1974.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH OFFICER

in the Department of
LAND ECONOMY

Applications are invited for the post of senior research officer in the Department of Land Economy. The appointment will be for three years from 1st October 1974.

The officer appointed will be required to pursue research into environmental problems affecting human activity in developing countries of Africa and Asia and to ascertain the extent of awareness of environmental factors in development planning, particularly with respect to the proprietary structure, distribution and use of land. The officer will also be required to lecture in Urban and Regional Planning to the Cambridge Course on Development and to use his research experience to augment this teaching.

Applicants should be well-grounded in appropriate academic disciplines and should have experience in Urban and Regional Planning in developing countries. Six copies of applications, naming two referees, should be sent by Monday, 17th June 1974 to the Secretary, Department of Land Economy, 19 Silver Street, Cambridge, from whom further details are available.

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The person appointed will be required to assist in the general legal work of a large Outer London Borough within the Conveyancing and Common Law section of the legal division, with particular reference to schemes involving compulsory purchase. He or she will be expected to have the capacity to supervise other solicitors and unqualified staff, and will also be required from time to time to attend evening meetings.

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Application forms obtainable on written application quoting reference 89 to the undersigned, and must be returned by 10th June, 1974.

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£6345 x £180 (3) - £6885

This position will be filled by a person with proven managerial ability able to take a leading part as a member of the Council's management team of officers. He will be fully supported by professional staff in the exercise of his direct responsibility for the Council's community services comprising Housing, Environmental Health and Leisure and Recreation services.

Horsham District is situated in an attractive part of Sussex within reach of the Downs and the coast. The population of the District is 66,645 and this is expected to increase to over 99,000 by 1981.

This post is advertised after consultation with the Local Government Staff Commission and the salary is subject to Pay Board approval. Whilst preference will be given to local government officers affected by reorganisation, the post is not restricted to local government applicants. Generous removal and disturbance allowances will be paid and the post carries a lump sum car allowance.

Application forms, a job description and details of assistance available as to housing etc., should be requested from the Personnel Officer, 5, Blackhorse Way, Horsham, Sussex, telephone Horsham 64681.

Closing date Friday, 14th June, 1974.

Solicitor

£4965-£5472

Required to head the Legal Division of the Clerk and Chief Executive's Department of the Surrey County Council whose offices are at Kingston upon Thames.

The post should prove particularly attractive to Solicitors in private practice with the necessary experience who seek entry to local government at a senior level.

The Division comprises 15 staff including two other Solicitors and eight Legal Executives and is responsible for the conveyancing, contracts and common law work of the Authority; for representing the Authority in the Magistrates and County Courts throughout the County and for assisting the other Solicitors in the Department, as required, in handling the work arising out of planning, compulsory purchase and other similar public inquiries. 22 working days holiday each year, contributory pension scheme, and assistance with removal expenses in approved cases.

For further information please Chris Robinson, Deputy County Clerk, telephone number 01 546 1050 Ext. 129. Closing date: 7 June 1974.

This advertisement appears after consultation with the Local Government Staff Commission.

LONDON BOROUGH'S TRAINING COMMITTEE (SOCIAL SERVICES)

Director of Training

Here is an opportunity to lead a Joint Organisation which works with the Social Services Departments of the London Boroughs and the Health Service to provide a wide ranging staff training service which includes the development of staff skills, co-ordination, and links with other agencies. Applicants should have an appropriate qualification and experience in Social Services, Adult Education or similar fields. Knowledge and understanding of Local Government is crucial.

Salary Scale £5,780 x 201 (4) - £5,564 plus £144 London Weighting and Lump Sum Car Allowance of £250 p.a. J.N.C. Conditions for Chief Officers apply.

Further information and application forms are available from: The Director, London Boroughs' Training Committee (Social Services), 3 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1. 01-828 3333.

Closing date for receipt of applications 14th June, 1974.

UNRESTRICTED ADVERTISEMENT

ASSISTANT/SOLICITOR

£3,846-£4,737

GENERAL: Bedfordshire (population 461,000) is a complete County enjoying the benefits of both rural and urban amenities. Located within the M1 and A1, passing through 16 easy access to the Midlands, London and East Angles.

POST DETAILS: Opportunity exists to join a team of five as an Assistant Solicitor with the County Council and gain a wide variety of experience in local government administration and legal work. Applications from newly qualified Solicitors and recent finalists will be considered together with other more experienced candidates.

SALARY: Starting point negotiable. Dependent on experience. OTHER BENEFITS: 100% approved removal expenses payable. Grant for removal expenses. 28 working days holiday p.a. Modern working conditions. Pension and application forms from the Personnel Officer, County Hall, Bedford 045 6200. Ext. 107. Closing date 15th June 1974.

This advertisement appears after consultation with the Local Government Staff Commission and is unrestricted.

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Administration Department

principal legal officer

£5,613-£6,105 pa

Moving House Expenses, lodging, Mortgage facilities

Applications (quote ref: 123) By 14 June, 1974

After consultation with the Local Government Staff Commission this post is advertised without restriction but all other things being equal preference will be given to serving Local Government Officers.



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**
County Hall, West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 7EP

Deputy Borough Administrative & Legal Officer

The main task for this post will be to take charge of and to develop the Council's Legal Division. At present the Division has 26 established posts (including 6 solicitors). A recent O. & M. review report—still to be considered—proposes a further 10 posts. The deputy will have other responsibilities within the Administrative & Legal Service and the opportunity to participate in the Council's developing corporate approach to management and forward planning. Further particulars are contained in the papers accompanying the job description.

Applicants should be solicitors with sound local government experience and management ability. Salary Scale: £5,031-£5,634—currently under review—Inclusive of London Weighting.

For job description, further particulars and application forms please write to the Director of Management Services, Town Hall, Erith, Kent. DAB-JTL, or telephone 01-303 7777, extension 430. Closing date 10th June, 1974.

Bexley
LONDON BOROUGH

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT RESEARCH UNIT

Applications are invited for a temporary appointment as Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Research Unit (ACDRU) of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The post would run from the autumn of 1974 for two years. Salary would be in the region of £5,000, depending on age, qualifications and experience.

This small Unit operates under the general guidance of the Head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Research, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Unit undertakes research and study into the longer-term aspects of post international measures for the limitation and reduction of armaments, and by this means contributes to the formulation of official British policy in this field. The post requires aptitude for research and for originating ideas; the 2 to express these effectively in writing, and an interest in both foreign policy generally and strategic questions in particular. It also requires the necessary administrative ability to organise the Unit's work and staff.

The successful candidate is likely to be in his late 30's or early 40s.

For further details and an application form (to be sent by 22nd June, 1974) write to Personnel Policy Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room 2138, Curia Building, Victoria Embankment, London SW1A 2JD.

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SOLICITOR OFF PARK LANE, V
First-class experience and ability.
Salary not less than £4,000 per annum.
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Personal Assistant to the Chairman

Lincolnshire From £4,500 + car.

A man of exceptional ability is required for the personal staff of the Chairman of the Nickerson Group of Companies, which is rapidly expanding its wide range of agricultural interests, both in the UK and internationally. The successful candidate will probably be a graduate with at least five years business experience, and will be aged around 30, but not exceeding 35. This is a demanding job and the ability to work under pressure and to carry out the duties connected with all aspects of the Chairman's business and personal life is essential. A short period in the Services after graduation is likely to have helped develop the personal qualities which would be useful to this position. The Group's head office is located in an attractive part of the Lincolnshire Wolds and previous holders of the post have advanced to key line management positions within the Group. The salary will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience. A company car is provided and there is a contributory pension scheme and health insurance. Applications in strictest confidence to: W.A. Cuff, The Nickerson Group of Companies, Rothwell, Lincoln LN7 6BJ.

THE NICKERSON GROUP OF COMPANIES

BAHAMAS

BARRISTER or SOLICITOR

An ASSISTANT LEGAL DRAFTSMAN will be required to draft Government Bills and subsidiary legislation. Candidates must have substantial experience in legislative drafting.

Salary about £5,725 including housing allowance. A substantial gratuity is payable on completion of contract which will be for one year of three years initially, but with the likelihood of renewal. There are also free passages and liberal paid leave. THERE IS NO INCOME TAX IN THE BAHAMAS AT PRESENT.

For further particulars you should apply, giving brief details of experience to:

Crown agents

M Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD, quoting reference number M3Q/740220/TA.

TOWN PLANNERS

South Australian Housing Trust

Planners are wanted for exciting new innovative developments in South Australia in, near and away from the city.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and will be within the range SA\$9,521-SA\$12,930 per annum.

Conditions are similar to those applying in the State Public Service.

Applications should be submitted in writing to the Agent-General for South Australia, South Australia House, 50 Strand, London WC2N 5LW.

Applications close 7th June, 1974.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Appointment of

COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICER

SALARY SCALE, £9,471 by £240(3) to £10,191 p.a.

The Hertfordshire County Council invite applications for the appointment of County Education Officer. Applicants should be holders of a British University and should have had teaching and administrative experience at a high level.

The post is advertised on an unrestricted basis with the approval of the Local Government Staff Commission for England but, other things being equal, preference will be given to serving local government officers. Details of qualifications and previous and present appointments, together with the names of two referees should be sent to the undersigned, from whom further particulars may be obtained (Ref. PP), by 4th June, 1974.

M. J. de FLEMING, County Secretary, County Hall, Hertford.

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

MACROBERT CENTRE

Director to take charge of one of Scotland's foremost Centres for the Performing Arts, established in 1971.

Candidates should offer wide experience and knowledge of professional theatre and music presentation, coupled with imagination and the administrative skills needed to manage a professional staff and an arts complex consisting of a 500 seat theatre/film theatre, a studio theatre and an art gallery.

Salary on a scale rising to £4,548 per annum (currently under review).

Further particulars are available from the Secretary (T.M.), University of Stirling, Stirling, to whom applications together with the names of 2 referees should be sent by 31 May, 1974.

Fleet Sales Manager

Due to continued expansion Ryland Vehicle Group require a Fleet Sales Manager for the volume car market. Experienced man required with proven history of success.

This is a senior appointment and will command a high basic salary and commission package.

Details in first instance to:

Mr. R. V. Roberts, Car Marketing Manager, Ryland Vehicle Group Ltd., Ryland Street, Birmingham, B16 8BT.

ryland

PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES IN TOWER HAMLETS

Three vacancies exist for senior positions in the Department of Development and Planning, Tower Hamlets, London E1. The planning department has an establishment of 41 and is organized into 3 groups: Strategic Planning, Urban Design and Development, and two area planning teams.

HEAD OF PLANNING P.O. 20/21 £4,381-£5,538. Directly responsible to the Director for the preparation and day-to-day running of the planning department. A qualified planner with wide experience and ability, and capable of leading a young and enthusiastic team. Ref. 4111

CHIEF PLANNER P.O. 10/10 £3,980-£4,500. Responsible for the Borough's planning group which will prepare the Borough Plan, and carry out research and policy studies. Appropriate qualifications and experience required. Ref. 4112

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT PLANNER P.O. 10/10 £3,980-£4,500. One of two in the Borough Studies group responsible to the Chief Planner supervising the work of the group and for specific projects. Appropriate qualifications and experience required. Ref. 4113

The planning department is situated at Ponder Town Hall, Bow Road, near to Bow Road District Line Station.

On allowance, available in appropriate cases. A career of progression is open.

Write for further details and application form to the Head of Planning Services, Mr. H. H. Jones, Tower Hamlets, London E1. Applications should be returned by 10th June, 1974.

ACCOUNTANT required by City of London. See £4,000+ Appointments.

Don't miss the opportunity to fill your senior vacancies of £4,000 plus.

Remember each Tuesday and Friday The Times will be publishing the

£4,000 plus Appointments Page

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UNIVERSITY OF BENGHAZI

The University of Benghazi requires teaching staff in the following fields for the year 1974/1975.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Lecturers in the following subjects:

1. General Mathematics.
2. General Physics.
3. General Chemistry.
4. General Botany.
5. General Zoology.
6. English Language for science, premedical and engineering.

FACULTY OF LAW AND ARTS

1. Professor head of the department (preferably a linguist or a language expert) for the Department of English.
2. Associate Professor (Reader) to be the Deputy Head of the Department of English.
3. Assistant Professor (Senior Lecturer) for the Department of English.
4. Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers for the Department of English.

SALARIES

	Starting Rate	Maximum Rate	Annual Increment
Professor	LD 4800	LD 5400	LD 100
Associate Professor	LD 4400	LD 5000	LD 100
Assistant Professor	LD 4000	LD 4480	LD 80
Lecturer	LD 3600	LD 4080	LD 80
Assistant Lecturer	LD 3000	LD 3360	LD 60

N.B. Rate of Exchange LD1=£1.47

The University provides a monthly housing allowance, initial furniture allowance, tourist air travel and free medical treatment.

Applications are to be addressed to:-

The Dept. of Teaching Staff Affairs
General Administration
University of Benghazi
Benghazi
Libyan Arab Republic

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

ESTATES AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SENIOR LANDSCAPE ASSISTANT - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

required with a minimum of 5 years post qualification experience. Salary within Principal pay scale would be useful. Salary within Principal pay scale £1,384-£4,356. Responsible to the Assistant County Estates Officer for the control and programming of design and construction work of a Section of the Landscape Division which deals with the County Parks, Picnic Sites, Playing Fields and highways landscape work. Kent, one of the largest of the new authorities, is a professional county with interesting and demanding fast growing county with interesting and demanding professional opportunities. The Landscape Division has a highly qualified multi-professional team which contributes much to the landscape improvement of the county.

Following consultation with the Local Government Staff Commission, there are no restrictions as to who may apply for the post, but all things being equal, preference will be given to serving Local Government officers offered by reorganisation.

Further particulars and application forms obtainable from the County Estates Officer and Valuer, Springfield, Maidstone. Intending applicants can telephone Maidstone 54371, Ext. 577 for further information.

BOTTLING EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

Riv S.p.A. Milan (Established 1910) is setting up a U.K. Company to market their bottling equipment. The new company must be run by a dynamic and efficient team. Therefore we are seeking:

SALES MANAGER

The candidate must have a thorough technical knowledge of high speed lines in the bottling industry. He must be prepared to travel and work long hours and must have first class contacts at all levels. Offices will be in central London. In return we offer:

Annual Salary between six and seven thousand pounds.

Commission on the total sales of the new U.K. company.

First year's salary guaranteed by contract.

SALES ENGINEER

The candidate is also required to have the necessary technical knowledge and sales experience of the industry and be prepared to travel and work closely with the Sales Manager in the running of the organisation.

Annual Salary three thousand five hundred to four thousand pounds.

Plus benefits similar to the Sales Manager.

Apply in writing to Pritchard, Engelfield and Tobin (Ref. V.R.1, 23 Great Castle Street, W.1).

Litigation Solicitor

Large city firm requires an Assistant Solicitor to specialise in Commercial Litigation. The successful applicant will have at least 2 years' experience of working without detailed supervision in this field and will join a team headed by three partners. Salary depending on age and experience.

Please write with brief education and career details to: Box No. 0111 D. The Times.

GM at 25/35

THE COMPANY

THE TASK

THE REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Definitely essential
- (b) Possibly helpful
- (c) General

We want a thruster, male or female, with G.M. ability - proven or potential. We expect to pay and will negotiate the usual fringe benefits.

The company employs 843 people in five manufacturing units around the country. A thirty-year record of earnings growth has demonstrated a total capability which is the envy of its competitors. Yet M.R. audit shows that the company has comparative advantages which it has not yet exploited. The Task is to build up, and run, new business enterprises - by exploiting these advantages in growth markets already identified.

The only essential requirement is general management ability. This can be either proven, or potential. It might be helpful if you are an international or a linguist; or if you have had experience of the manufacture, or supply, of critical components for any of the following applications: transport; business m/c's; military; medical; agricultural; N.S. oil, or electrical distribution - especially if the components were polymeric.

In general you may look forward to vigorous argument with new colleagues - especially if you are numerate, or articulate. A production engineer, polymer scientist or business graduates could become a valued member of the team.

PLEASE PHONE 0524 63610 OR 0989 3211 OR WRITE BOX GM20983 BEFORE MONTH END

DIRECTOR of SECURITY LIAISON WINE AND SPIRITS

Applications invited (preferably from Senior Police Officers) for above post.

The successful applicant will be required to liaise with the Trade and Police throughout the country; should be capable of lecturing on security in its widest aspects.

The appointment carries starting salary c. £4,500, car provided and other benefits.

Application forms from: DIRECTOR OF SECURITY LIAISON, 356 Kennington Road, London SE11 4LD. Telephone: 01-735 7740.

ACCOUNTANT

this position does not necessarily require a qualified man, but a person fully capable of taking charge. Great opportunity for 'Right Man'. Over 1/2 million turnover, growing. Salary £4,500 according to experience, free pension and bonuses. Prospect of Directorship.

Please write or phone.

Mr. Fletcher, Metyclean Ltd.,

92 Victoria Street, S.W.1 Tel. 828 2511

Appointments Vacant also on page 25

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Ulster: THE NEW UNIVERSITY SENIOR LECTURESHIP IN SOCIOLOGY

Applications are invited for a post of Senior Lecturer in the Social Anthropology and Sociology Division of the School of Social Sciences. The appointment will be for a period of three years, with a date from 1st October, 1974 or as soon after as may be arranged.

Candidates should possess a research degree in some branch of sociology and have appropriate teaching experience.

Salary will be on the scale £4,000-£5,444 with F.S.S.U.

Application forms and further particulars should be obtained from The Registrar, The New University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland (postcode BT5 7TA) to whom completed applications including the names and addresses of three referees should be returned not later than 25th June, 1974.

Institute of Archaeology University of London LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION

Salary within the scale £2,118 to £3,844. The person appointed will be required to organize, teach and research relating to the conservation of archaeological materials, including the study of the history and development of conservation techniques. The successful candidate will be expected to take up his post on 1st October, 1974.

Optimizations will be considered for full details of qualifications should reach the Director, University of London Institute of Archaeology, Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY, by 25th June, 1974.

The University of Hull DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Applications are invited for a S.R.C. Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to work in collaboration with Dr. R. J. Davies on Spin-dependent Nuclear Transfer and Radiative Transfer between Magnetic Resonance. The research will involve a study of energy transfer between magnetic resonance and optical spectroscopy. The appointment is for two years, and will be available from a date to be arranged with the successful applicant, at a salary of £2,118 to £3,844, carrying F.S.S.U. benefits.

Applications (with copies giving details of age, qualifications and experience together with the names of three referees) should be sent by 15th June 1974, to the Registrar, The University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RS, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

University of Newcastle upon Tyne SCHOOL OF PHYSICS

Applications are invited for the post of SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE or RESEARCH ASSOCIATE in the School of Physics. The successful candidate will be required to carry out research in the field of Nuclear Magnetism and its applications, including experimental work in magnetic resonance.

The appointment will be made from October 1974 and will, in the first instance, be for two years, but may be extended. Salary will be £2,118 to £3,844, carrying F.S.S.U. benefits.

Applications (with copies giving details of age, qualifications and experience together with the names of three referees) should be sent to Dr. W. E. H. Murray, Department of Physics, 1, NE1 7RU, as soon as possible.

University of St. Andrews DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE S.R.C. POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Applications are invited from candidates with Ph.D. for the above post (tenable for two years) in the Department of Agriculture. The work will involve the development of techniques for the analysis of plant material and the evaluation of these materials as analytical reagents in the determination of plant nutrients. The successful candidate will be expected to take up his post on 1st October, 1974, at a salary of £2,118 to £3,844, carrying F.S.S.U. benefits.

The University of Lancaster DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

PLANT PHYSIOLOGIST

Applications are invited for a three-year post-doctoral appointment supported by N.E.R.C. The successful candidate will carry out research in the field of plant physiology and the evaluation of plant material as analytical reagents in the determination of plant nutrients. The successful candidate will be expected to take up his post on 1st October, 1974, at a salary of £2,118 to £3,844, carrying F.S.S.U. benefits.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Lancaster, Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YW, to whom applications (with copies of three referees) should be sent not later than 1st June, 1974.

University of Exeter LECTURER IN ENGLISH

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in English, available, if possible, from 1st October 1974. The successful candidate will be expected to take up his post on 1st October, 1974, at a salary of £2,118 to £3,844, carrying F.S.S.U. benefits.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Department of English, The University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4JL, to whom applications (with copies of three referees) should be sent by 15 June 1974. Please enclose a copy of your curriculum vitae with all correspondence.

University of Evansville 3 INSTRUCTORS ART HISTORY ECONOMICS MUSIC HISTORY (FLUENT IN GERMAN OR SPANISH)

Single candidates for teaching positions in Art History, Economics, Music History, and German or Spanish. The successful candidate will be expected to take up his post on 1st October, 1974, at a salary of £2,118 to £3,844, carrying F.S.S.U. benefits.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Department of Arts and Sciences, The University of Evansville, Evansville, Indiana 47712, to whom applications (with copies of three referees) should be sent by 15 June 1974. Please enclose a copy of your curriculum vitae with all correspondence.

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Belgium

a Special Report

Three communities' mood of cooperation augurs well

by Roger Berthoud

Belgian governments come and go roughly every 18 months, but so far the country remains prosperous and, or all its internal divisions, remarkably stable. The main threats at the moment are inflation and the progressive decline of the European community.

The new Government of Mr Leo Tindemans wants Belgium to return to the orbit of the European community. As for the EC, no member state, except possibly Holland, could suffer more if the protectionist barriers were again in Europe. Self-interest naturally and rightly lies at the heart of Belgium's enthusiasm for European unity.

On the domestic political front there are signs of a marked turn for the better in relations between the three communities contained in a Dutch-speaking Flanders, French-speaking Wallonia, and bilingual Brussels.

Quite unexpectedly, the general election of March 19, which seemed to change the title, has led to an unprecedented degree of cooperation between the "Federalist" parties from the three communities, the Volksunie,

the Rassemblement Wallon and the Front Démocratique des Francophones, on the one hand, and two of the traditional parties, the Social Christians and the Liberals, on the other.

The Federalists, with their militant agitation for regional autonomy, were previously considered to be beyond the pale. Mr Tindemans has helped them to become respectable.

We now have a remarkable situation in which the Federalists are maintaining in existence the minority coalition of Social Christians and Liberals which Mr Tindemans formed on April 22. Technically in opposition alongside the Socialists and Communists, the Federalists have in fact been abstaining. Earlier they came near to joining the Government.

The unprecedented negotiations at the castle of Steenokkerzeel on April 20 broke down eventually—but not before the Federalists had shown an extremely encouraging degree of flexibility. Even the taboo topic of the future geographical limits of the Brussels zone, restricted in 1962 to 19 bilingual communities and six more with French-language facilities, had been broached. An enlargement of the community to bring in one or more of the Federalist par-

ties is still seen as a possibility.

Mr Tindemans's minority coalition is generally held to be an interim solution. It has seemed possible that the Rassemblement Wallon, with its 13 seats in the Lower House, might join it. This would strengthen Wallonia's position in both the Social Christian and Liberal parties. Alternatively, observers believe that Mr Tindemans might form a new Government with the Socialists in the autumn.

The more hopeful feeling in the political air is due in large measure to the personality of Mr Tindemans. By Belgian political standards he is young—only 52. He is remarkably open-minded and recognized as a man of intelligence and integrity. He has all the necessary languages. He even has considerable charm. The chief doubt concerns his toughness; and there, only time can tell. It is not necessary to his advantage that he is the sort of Belgian whom foreigners like.

International politics have been an abiding interest. He is a devoted European and member of the Mooner Committee for a united states of Europe. He has studied and lectured in the United States. He may, in short, be expected to play his part on the European stage.

Yet one should not expect Mr Tindemans necessarily to live up immediately to the reputation built for him by the recent election campaign. With this man, things will change. The postures of the Flemish Social Christians shouted. The perennial problems of Belgium remain intractable, and some cannot be solved until the Government has the two-thirds majority in Parliament necessary for constitutional changes.

Knottiest of all is the problem of the composition and powers of the proposed regional councils. The idea is that they should have some of the same autonomy in the economic field as the cultural councils, composed simply of the parliamentary deputies of the French and Dutch-speaking communities, already have in the cultural field.

Mr Tindemans believes that the regional councils cannot be added to the existing institutions—city councils, urban authorities, provincial councils and Parliament. Instead, the regional councils should replace the provincial councils. He also believes they must have their own revenue. This would give them genuine freedom and avoid clashes with Parliament but it would involve the unpopular attaching to taxation.

Among other hardy annuals is the schools problem. The Socialists want mixed schools to replace the existing pattern of state and Roman Catholic schools as soon as possible. The Socialists also resent the fact that whereas Catholic schools receive subsidies on a per capita basis and have great freedom in spending the state's money, the spending of state schools is rigidly controlled.

Then there is the problem of reforming the law on abortion—unpopular in the Catholic and conservative north, popular in the socialist-inclined francophone south; and the whole ecology-fraught problem of the creation of state enterprises, where the Government's programme has gone some way towards the Socialists' demands, notably in the energy sector.

It was precisely over the Franco project—the setting up of a Belgo-Iranian oil refinery near Liège—that Mr Leburton's coalition of Socialists, Social Christians and Liberals fell on January 19.

The project was dear to the Socialists, whose main support lies in Wallonia. But the Flemish Social Christians and Liberals were sceptical of its commercial and ideological merits, and the Iranians prevarications in the deeply

divided Belgian Cabinet. The Prime Minister and eight Socialist ministers thereupon resigned. A general election seemed the only way out.

The passing of the cumbersome and ineffective Leburton Government went unlamented. Greater hopes attach to Mr Tindemans. Not just the hopes of Belgians but of foreign residents too. There are many temporary Brusselsians who believe his government could do a good deal for the good name of Belgium.

As every opinion poll makes clear, the reputation of Belgium stands low among fellow Europeans. Why is this? Possibly it is not because of the old linguistic squabbles, the lamentable driving the preoccupation with comfort and other more or less justified clichés. It is more perhaps because of the deplorable appearance of Brussels, suffering at the hands of thoughtless property developers.

Looking up from the old town towards the central railway station and the Westbury Hotel, looking at the Manhattan Centre or the TTT tower, or at the destruction of the pretty squares behind the Avenue des Arts, the visitor easily concludes that in Belgium money reigns supreme—with full official blessing. Belgium deserves a better name; and Mr Tindemans can help to give it one.



Cutting crystal at Val St Lambert, one of the country's traditional industries.

More positive leadership and firm decisions needed to clear economic hurdles

by David Cross

Government or no government, the Belgian economy has marched resolutely forward in the past few years. Friendliness towards foreign investors and an export drive helped by the worldwide economic boom of the past decade have been sufficient to ensure prosperity despite the weak economic direction provided by a succession of shaky coalitions.

But it has become clear during recent weeks that a more positive political leadership will be required in the future to steer the country safely through the uncertainties of inflation and a predicted slackening in the rate of economic expansion.

One of the first signs of a possible end to the customary Belgian method of resorting to compromise,

which has effectively meant continually putting off decisions in the hope that any given problem will finally disappear, appeared as a result of the energy crisis.

After successfully overcoming the initial Arab boycott, the country's oil supplies virtually came to a halt in a price dispute between the Government and the international oil companies. The inability of the caretaker Government, which has run the country for most of the first part of this year, to reach a swift decision was at the root of the trouble.

With prices threatening to rise by at least 10 per cent (inflation could be as high as 15 per cent if the increases recorded in the first months of the year are repeated throughout 1974) and fears of a further spread of unemployment, some firm decisions will have to be

taken fairly quickly.

The general public, at least, have taken to heart the economic threats confronting the country. Recent opinion polls have shown that concern about inflation and unemployment is their primary preoccupation. Political leaders, too, have voiced their disquiet on more than one occasion. But it remains to be seen whether the recently appointed minority government of Social Christians and Liberals under the leadership of Mr Leo Tindemans, the Prime Minister, will have sufficient strength to put into force some of the more unpopular economic decisions required.

Compared with the economic problems of several of the member states of the European Community, however, those facing Belgium are by no means dire. The impact of the past couple of

years, when the country enjoyed a healthy balance of payments and a high level of industrial activity, will continue to have beneficial repercussions for the next few months at least.

The country's structural surplus on current account, as a recent study carried out by the Banque de Bruxelles points out, dates from the beginning of the 1970s, when exports began to surge ahead of imports. The growth of exports was directly related to the high level of industrial investment carried out in Belgium since the early 1960s, which resulted in setting up a wide variety of technologically advanced units.

Last year's boom figures speak for themselves. The balance of payments of the Belgo-Luxembourg economic union showed a record surplus of 36,800m Belgian

francs (about £368m). This was due to a high surplus on current account, a deficit on capital account standing at about half the 1972 level and a sizable inflow of unidentified funds.

Exports, nearly 70 per cent of which are absorbed by other member states of the EEC, rose by 22.2 per cent to total 86,000m francs last year. At the same time imports increased by 24.8 per cent to a total value of 85,000m francs.

Both exports and imports were helped by the accession of Britain, Denmark and the Republic of Ireland to the Community at the beginning of last year. In the case of trade with Britain Belgian imports rose more than exports to give a balance in Britain's favour of some 15,000m francs (about £15m).

Industrial activity, which reached a peak during the last quarter of 1972, slackened slightly last year, but is still increasing at a respectable high level. The industrial production index rose by 5.6 per cent during the year, with leading export industries like chemicals and steel products paying the way. This compared with an average rise of 6.4 per cent for 1972 and with a 10 per cent increase during the last quarter of that year.

Investment, too, was at a high level, increasing by about 10 per cent in both the private and the public sectors. The situation on the prices and incomes front, where stability has in the past been one of the main reasons for Belgium's competitiveness abroad, was not as bright as last year. Prices rose by some 7.5 per cent, considerably more than during 1972,

with wage costs, at 8 per cent, slightly ahead of consumer price increases. But Belgium's inflation rate was still well below those of most other EEC countries and compared favourably with the 7.4 per cent of West Germany and the 7.9 per cent of The Netherlands.

Because of the structural surplus the increased cost of oil imports should pose no insuperable problems for Belgium's balance of payments. According to recent estimates of the Banque de Bruxelles, the direct and indirect effects of the rise in oil prices will result in a deterioration in the trade balance of between 20,000m and 40,000m francs this year.

Thus, if the current account surplus will be much reduced, it is unlikely to be transformed into a deficit, and indeed a surplus of some 10,000m francs may

well remain", the bank predicts.

However, as the European Commission pointed out in its latest quarterly report on the economic situation in the EEC, the slackening of world demand and the rise in import prices resulting from the oil crisis is bound to affect economic growth this year. Forecasts of a growth in gross national product of between 3 and 4 per cent, while more optimistic than earlier predictions of zero growth, are lower than the 6 per cent increase in 1973 and the 5.4 per cent rise in 1972.

But for both the Commission and the Banque de Bruxelles one of the main problems confronting the Belgian economy is the persistent upward price-wage movement. If this continues at higher oil prices work their

way through to the ordinary retail prices of a wide range of goods (wage increases directly linked to the retail price index in Belgium), could, according to the bank, jeopardize the otherwise stable outlook for the Belgian franc.

To avert this danger the Commission suggests active price policy, combined with moves to persuade trade unions to moderate their claims for higher wages.

Other courses of action recommended by the Commission include the maintenance of the current level of activity during the coming months, while taking care to maintain it below its productive potential. In the budgetary sector it suggests restrictions on additional expenditure, and reallocations of new investments in energy.



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Limburg: rural region wants its mines

by Margot Lyon

Will the Campine coalmines stay open, or will they not? That is the burning question in the Limburg province, where mining still dominates despite the recent rapid progress in seeking out other industries. Until the 1920s this Flemish region lived rooted in its rural Catholic traditions, a beautiful backwater from the heat and scrub of its north to the cherry and apple orchards of Saint Truiden in the south.

Genk, a few miles from the provincial capital, Hasselt, was a moorland village until its coal was exploited after the First World War. In 1974 Genk has 60,000 inhabitants, a third of whom are immigrant miners and their families. Surprisingly much of it is still quite beautiful. The miners' houses round the Westerschelde and Winterslag pits form almost a garden suburb—utterly different from the Coronation Streets of South Lancashire or of Belgium's southern coalfields around Liège and Mons.

The Campine (Kempen in Flemish Dutch) has seven mines that produce high-grade coking coal and lower-grade "nutty". But they are deep, the plant is new outworn and production is uneconomic. Already by 1959 the European Coal and Steel Community was putting pressure on Belgium to phase out the mines for eventual closure. Since then all the big collieries of the Walloon south have closed, but the Campine still produces about 15 per cent of the country's energy needs. For the rest, Belgium imports Polish and American coal.

Middle-East oil and Dutch natural gas.

Home production could not continue without heavy government subsidies. Two of the Genk mines closed in the 1960s against an outcry that led to strikes, violence and the loss of two lives. In 1967 the five remaining mines fused ownership into the Kempensteenkolenmijnen company, which is nominally private but virtually nationalized by subsidy. Last year state subsidies totalled 3,969m Belgian francs for 6,500,000 tons of coal mined by 6,766 Belgians and 6,400 immigrants working underground, and 4,368 (almost all Belgians) at the surface.

Over the years the miners have won exceedingly good returns for their dangerous and dirty jobs. They now have a mass of benefits that includes not only generous social security and sick pay, cheap coal and subsidized rents, but extra holidays, free travel for their families, mortgage interests of 1 per cent, pensions after 27 years, and more. No wonder they insist that the five mines should not close. They claim that another 25 years reserves still exist, though nobody questions that the coal will cost more every year to exploit.

An official of the Socialist Mineworkers' Federation told me that because of inflation the miners will expect new wage increases up to 10 per cent. He acknowledged that this might bring subsidies to the point where the state could no longer pay. "The great question now," he said, "is whether the Government attaches more importance to coal costs or to security of supply, now that we have entered a period of world uncertainty."

Last September the Minister for Economic Affairs proposed that all the Walloon mines should close by 1980, and that the Campine should last production in three million tons a year from its two best pits, Zolder and Waterscheid. During the winter oil crisis the project was shelved, but the latest signs are that if the worst of the energy crisis is indeed over—the closure policy will continue, though more slowly.

In the meantime the mines are forbidden to take on new men, and the younger men are encouraged to transfer voluntarily to other jobs. Unemployment benefits during retrenching periods are fixed at 100 per cent of pay for the first four months and 80 per cent for the next four. Immigrant miners get the same rates of pay, by the miners' own insistence.

Some of the Italians and Spaniards who came between the wars have now settled in Limburg. The Turks, Moroccans, and Greeks who form most of the present foreign work force usually aim to earn as much as possible and go back home. But the province provides an admirable service for their families if they bring them: it includes housing, child care, interpreters, mosques with the imam doubling as school teacher, and even televised lessons in Dutch.

What are the prospects for an ex-miner, or for the young Limburg people looking for jobs? This is the problem that the state, the province and the towns have made an all-out effort to

give over the past decade—scattered on the fact that Limburg's population growth has stood at 15 per cent higher than any other Belgian province. This high rate has now eased off a little but until 1980, 6,000 young people a year are likely to come on to the labour market.

Some of them attend the excellent technical schools that now teach a wide range of skills such as electronics, chemical subjects, electronics, economics, commercial economics and modern languages. Many of them, with greater or lesser skills, will join the thousands who commute daily into Holland, Germany or the Liège region.

For some years neither men nor women will find enough opportunities at home though new industries are growing fast, especially in nine chosen zones where the Government gives maximum aid to suitable firms. Ford of Cologne employs 11,900 men assembling cars at a huge plant near the Albert Canal—which is being deepened for barges up to 3,000 tons. Other multinational firms include Philips, Siemens and Be-Liart.

International motorways link the province with Maastricht, Eindhoven and Aachen, as well as Brussels. Antwerp and Liège, Limburg has become aware that it is well placed in Europe. Now it is by no means a backwater. Indeed if industrialization continues at its present speed the province may well need the natural parks it has already wisely reserved. But the success of its intelligent planning inevitably hangs on economic factors outside its control.

West Flanders: youth eager for change

West Flanders is better known for its wide, sandy beaches and for the beauty of Bruges than for its industrial potential. But do not be deceived by the placid charms of the Minnewater or the cud-chewing cows on the flat landscape. The province is on the move, with almost half of its million inhabitants aged under 30 and eager for change.

The province lies a little outside the golden triangle formed by Antwerp, Gent and Brussels, and has not quite shared the enormous rise in prosperity that its neighbours have enjoyed since the early 1960s. Farming lingers as the main occupation, especially in the area of the old battlefields—Ypres (Ieper), Menen, Passendale—known locally as the Westhoek.

Many of the Westhoek people work across the frontier in France, though the numbers have shrunk and they go more unwillingly since the French franc has lost value. Thousands more commute to Antwerp, Gent or Brussels, adding up to three hours of travelling time to each working day. The Westhoek in particular has not offered enough incentives for men to develop and use high skills. Women have trouble finding even unskilled jobs in their home districts and are unwilling to travel long distances.

The picture is by no means all bad. West Flanders has its own golden trio of towns: Bruges, Kortrijk (Courtrai) and Roeselare, all of which are prospering. Indeed if you cross the frontier to Kortrijk from Lille, the contrast between the near Flemish houses and the griminess of Tourcoing and Roubaix makes it hard to see that West Flanders lacks for anything. None the less by 1970 the average net income stood at 42,900 Belgian francs per capita compared with the national average of 47,300. The province has a notably low strike record, but there was a good deal of discontent at the low share of the fat national cake.

Britain's entry into the European Economic Community gave West Flanders hopes of being geographically well placed. The province plans to build a new coastal motorway to link with Calais and the future Channel Tunnel. But without waiting for the tunnel or for Britain, other schemes were started. The Government has created new industrial estates eligible for maximum development aid at Ieper, Menen, Poperinge, Veurne (Furnes), Diksmuide, Ostende and Tielt, all except Tielt lying in the Westhoek. These towns lie in areas of high population density, with few local opportunities.

The incentives are generous. They may take the form of interest-free or reduced-interest loans, capital grants, exemption from property taxes and registration tax, and accelerated depreciation allowances. There are premiums for the creation of new jobs and other aid for investments that contribute towards the extension, restructuring or modernisation of existing firms, as well as interest-free advances for new products, new manufacturing processes, and research.

Other regions of Belgium which got off to an earlier start in attracting foreign capital find their efforts give haphazard results which may not best correspond to local need. The West Flemish Economic Council works closely with local authorities to rationalize development schemes. Together they can buy and equip land, and make it available to users by sale or rent.

They are mostly after labour-intensive firms, especially those which are likely to expand. So far they have succeeded in attracting what they want, though they hope for much more. At least the Klippan division of Allied Chemicals has set up a plant to manufacture car safety belts and Autonom, a Dutch firm, makes jams there. Tielt is building a new Eric. Tielt, however, has a plastics factory. Setrafi makes wooden chair frames medieval days and there is still a strong concentration



The main square and belfry at Kortrijk, one of the golden trio of prosperous towns in West Flanders.

produce good quality cutlery there. The town has great assets as a growth centre, as it is well placed near the E3 European motorway. Its huge new shopping centre on the outskirts at Heule Kaurie has bright lights, music and fountains.

Roeselare, only 20 kilometres away, is the third industrial town and like Kortrijk has medium-size traditional industries that are now developing fast. Textiles are important but the town is a centre for food processing, including cattle fodder. Roeselare, Kortrijk and Bruges all have new industrial zones. Though they do not qualify for maximum government aid, they benefit from the move to foster reconversion and development of Belgium's own firms. Most of the new plant in these three zones is Belgian.

Some foreign firms came earlier. Most were American, and they include Heest Matress Ticking; H. D. Lee of Belgium, for clothing; and Outboard Marine Belgium, which also produces lawnmowers. But much still remains to be done.

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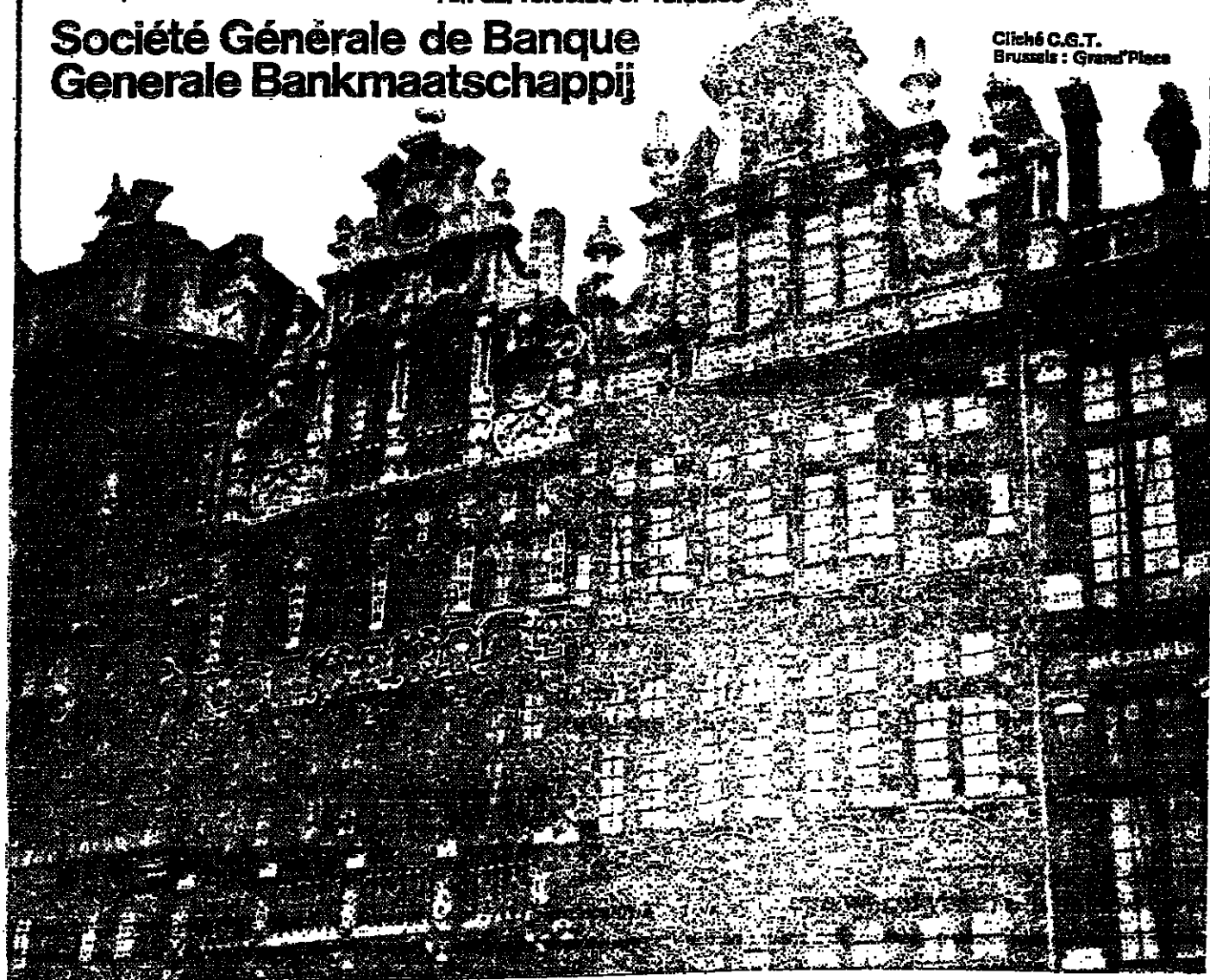
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Threat of schools' war is in the air again

Margot Lyon

Belgian schools question used bloody riots in the 50s until a schools pact an end to the conflict in 58. The pact is still in force but argument over its official renewal is a term of a new pact has lamed some of the old schools and was one of the reasons for the Government's premature downfall in January.

have been subsidized from state funds to a degree that French Catholic neighbours admire and envy. But in return for funds the state demanded the right to interfere in a degree unacceptable to Catholics. Each side has always been intensely jealous of the other's rights and privileges. The threat of a "schools' war" is in the air again.

This was not so unfair as it sounds, since a wide network of Catholic schools already existed. Most Catholic teachers were members of religious orders whose salaries were mostly ploughed back into the funds of the order and used to provide buildings and amenities often superior to those at state schools.

prefer English or German for their children. The young French-speakers, however, if they want top administrative jobs in Belgium, as increasingly these go to bilingual candidates.

Apart from the language question, there are other complexities. The nine provinces of Belgium and all the towns also have the right to provide schools at any level, with money from provincial taxes or local rates, and a state subsidy. They too are jealous of their autonomy and privileges. Their schools are officially neutral but are in fact Catholic in strongly Catholic areas.

Indeed the strands of Belgian education—Catholic or "free", state or "official", provincial or communal—mean that the 1958 pact led in practice to an enormously involved and penurious structure plagued by duplication, overlapping and lumbering clumsy administration. Into the bargain Brussels has become an important special case as the French-speaking city of French-speaking Flemish communities and have demanded French-language schools for their children.

The system, though complex, is not fluid. It is hard for a child educated in Catholic schools to the age of 18 to cross the boundary into a state university, and vice versa. As a critic wrote recently, it gives each teacher an ideological label for life, according to the diploma he got locally when he was 20. The danger has grown of the country dividing itself and its youth into two ideological camps.

Largely for this reason, the idea of pluralist schools giving both Catholic and lay education under one roof is now being aired, mainly by socialists and a minority of left-wing Catholics. "It is a hope of finding each other beyond our divisions", a Louvain professor told me. "It would stop the present inbreeding, but it is seen as a socialist school system."

However, the Government is committed to modernizing the pact. Over the years the teaching orders have almost disappeared so that Catholic schools are staffed by laymen and women who take home their full pay. Last year the state allowed Catholic schools to float building loans backed by government guarantees at 1.25 per cent interest, with the rest made up by the state.

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Feminist movement gains growing support

The Napoleonic code that made millions of women on the Continent chattels of their menfolk still leaves its traces in Belgium, though it has evolved there as in other European countries. Two other influences have also prevented women from gaining full equality: the conservatism of the Roman Catholic Church and the fact that most Belgian women did not ask for more.

Only a small minority complained of injustice. But in the past few years a movement has grown—most of it spontaneous and uncoordinated—that is intent on making women realize they are underprivileged.

The European Commission agrees that in the economic sector they are—but not more than most other European working women. Article 119 of the Rome Treaty pledges equal pay for equal work, but the Commission acknowledges that job equality is a long way off.

A recent report prepared for the EEC by Professor Philippe Vogel of Brussels University shows that the last year Dr Willy Peeters of Namur was arrested for doing abortions, though he is an eminent and elderly obstetrician. The event quickly led to a crusade for his release and for reform of the abortion law.

This cause célèbre aroused passions which have smouldered since then, and were an acute embarrassment to the Government which fell last January. By that time Parliament was studying two Bills for liberalization of the law, presented by a Socialist and a Communist respectively, and a scheme proposed by Mr. Vanderpoorten, the Minister of Justice, which the Social Christian Party considered too liberal and the Socialists found insufficient.

For the first time voters in the Christian Social Party spoke out on the issue, asking for more consideration—and for the final decision to be left in the woman's hands. The party's official campaign against reform in favour of "respect for life" while the Socialist slogan was of a "happy child", and the Liberals said much the same.

On the other hand 3,000 women workers at a munitions factory near Herstal held out for more than seven years ago, and established a landmark in the cause of equal pay. Women activists now say that the abortion question did trouble starts in schools where girls and boys are segregated, especially in the Roman Catholic schools. Belgium has some of the world's finest technical schools for top jobs in industry, but you do not see girls studying there.

As respect of the National Federation of Catholic Technical Schools admitted recently that training for girls was often too much oriented towards tasks such as sewing and household management, with too little contact with industry and too few qualified teachers to teach girls new and appropriate skills.

Many of the Catholic schools are now making great efforts to adapt, but the church's traditional view of women's role has been one of the targets of the feminist activists. In November 1972, Germaine Greer and Simone de Beauvoir led a great women's rally in Brussels, in which they deplored the Catholic enlightenment. The Roman Catholic Church in Belgium is far less criticized from within than Dutch or French Catholicism, but Louvain University, for example, and the Christian Social Party are now thinking a great deal about social problems, including the woman question.

Inevitably abortion has become one of the most controversial issues. As the law stands therapeutic abortions are permitted only rarely, and abortion is otherwise a crime, for which a doctor risks up to 10 years' hard labour. Under legislation to protect public morality the authorities have wide powers to transform of

which they have used to discourage information on family planning, and the sale of the pill (used only by seven out of every 100 Belgian women), as well as other forms of contraception. For some time doctors without making cash profits enjoyed the indulgence of the courts. Yet in January the last year Dr Willy Peeters of Namur was arrested for doing abortions, though he is an eminent and elderly obstetrician. The event quickly led to a crusade for his release and for reform of the abortion law.

Women form 53 per cent of the Belgian electorate, but the abortion question did not mark voting patterns because, as a "there is no cause, as a progressive current in all parties". In general Socialism is seen as dragging its feet over most issues, while the Christian Social Party is becoming more involved, and somewhat more open-minded.

However, the new crusade for women to appear on the scene was the Parti Feministe Unifié which presented itself for the first time. It was founded by four women of different backgrounds, one of them, Claire Jourdain, a Catholic mother who stood for Brussels, but did not get elected, which was not surprising as the party had no funds, no radio or television time, and not much help from men. It campaigned only for women's causes, from equal pay to reform of the marriage laws. It urged women who preferred to continue in the traditional parties at least to vote for a woman on Belgium's long party lists.

The elections are over, but the ferment is likely to continue. Women's movement groups are appearing all the time, especially among younger married women—or working women—who are tired of lukewarm support from the trade unions. The groups fall roughly into two categories. There are those who want women to share in men's power in society through better training, opportunities to pay and freedom to plan their families. Others believe that women's struggle is against oppression and therefore part of the class struggle. They are the class struggle. They are the class struggle. They are the class struggle.

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Young diplomat drew life from Spaak

by Roger Berthoud

In the Foreign Ministries of the EEC Nine there is, to my knowledge, no single official with quite the same degree of influence and ubiquity as the Vicomte Etienne Davignon, Director-General for Political Affairs at the Belgian Foreign Ministry.

Stevie Davignon, as he is known to his many friends, is no *eminence grise*. That would suggest old age and a preference for the background, which is wholly alien to him. Davignon is still young—only 42 next October. His place is in the centre of the European stage, and he enjoys it.

Indeed, whether he is taking the chair at a meeting of the "Davignon" Committee, composed of political directors of the Nine, or playing chairman and host to the energy group sired by the Washington energy conference in February, it is the relish which he brings to the task that strikes his colleagues. As one remarked: "He is the Eddie Merckx of international diplomacy" [a reference to Belgium's world cycling champion]: a round peg in a round hole.

It is no doubt fortuitous that Belgium was in the chair of the EEC Council of Ministers after the 1969 summit conference at The Hague had called for a report on the first steps that should be taken towards political cooperation in the European Community. The task therefore fell to him.

But it is certainly not fortuitous that the recommendations of the resulting Davignon report have proved so eminently sensible and politically realistic. Common sense was one of the characteristics Davignon admired most in the lodestar of his professional life—the late Foreign Minister of Belgium and European founding father, Paul-Henri Spaak.

Without Spaak's influence the young Davignon would almost certainly not have remained a diplomat. Although his grandfather had been Belgium's Foreign Minister between 1909 and 1915, and his father ended a distinguished diplomatic career as Ambassador in Berlin from 1936 to 1940, Etienne Davignon felt that the days of genuine diplomacy were nearly over.

But to please his father, of whom he was very fond, the young law graduate of Louvain University, who had been born in Budapest and brought up in Poland, Germany and Switzerland as well as Belgium, agreed to do a trial stint in the Foreign Ministry.

He was soon assigned to keep an eye on the Belgian Congo, then basically covered by the now defunct Colonial Ministry. Shortly afterwards began the precipitate negotiations for Congolese independence. Davignon inevitably became involved. He happened to be in the Congo when independence was granted in 1960. A few days later chaos broke loose. The already indispensable young diplomat stayed on, and found himself working with Robert Rothschild, then deputy head of mission in Leopoldville, now ambassador in London.

When Rothschild subsequently became *Chef de Cabinet* to Spaak he called in Davignon as a specialist on Congolese problems. Less than three years later Davignon had risen to be head of the Minister's private office at the age of 32. When Spaak left Belgian politics in 1965 he adapted himself smoothly to the very different style of Pierre Harmel. In 1969 he took over as head of the political affairs department, with the rank of ambassador.

To anyone talking to him now it is clear that working for Spaak was the crucial period in his adult life. It was, he says, an extraordinary experience. There was a great deal of affection between the statesman and his amusing as well as brilliant young aide, whose eye for the essential and gift for crisply summing up a complicated situation saved so much tedious paperwork.

Davignon speaks eloquently still of Spaak's remarkable combination of skill, patience and common sense. "He was a man of extraordinary common sense, never interested in something purely optical nor in grand statements. Any decision had to bring him closer to your objectives. He was very practical. That was why the Treaty of Rome happened" (Spaak was the driving force behind the drafting committee).

Spaak believed that European unity had to start with something practical which made a clear difference to life. Davignon believes that the European Community achieved this by greatly raising prosperity and increasing the consumer's choice in a tariff-free zone. The expectation of the EEC's founding fathers was that moves towards political unity would be a natural consequence of this economic integration.

What no one expected was that General de Gaulle would come back to power, putting development towards political unity effectively into the freezer. The British changed their minds and tried to come in, but the



Vicomte Etienne Davignon, the Director-General for Political Affairs at the Belgian Foreign Ministry.

general blocked them.

"This was the explanation of the formidable antagonism between de Gaulle and Spaak", Davignon recalled.

"Spaak saw him taking the EEC out of the line he had hoped for." Progress had to be made somewhere to stop the whole machine grinding to a halt: the technical aspects of the EEC were the only area where forward movement was possible.

"Spaak saw that it would be very difficult to come back to things which would return Europe to public interest."

The situation is now to some extent reversed: there is a possibility of the Community itself being endangered by protectionist trade measures on the Italian model and of the emphasis switching to political cooperation. Because the interests of the smaller countries are likely to go to the wall in inter-governmental contacts, countries such as Belgium and Holland are passionate defenders of the EEC's institutions. Only when decisions are taken in an institutional forum do the small countries which lack power have rules to protect them. The danger, Davignon says, is

not that the big countries will gang up on the small ones but that their own disagreements will paralyse the Community.

Davignon sees no possibility of real political cooperation without economic and commercial ties. It is indeed the strength of the EEC as a unified market of 250 million consumers that gives it what little political weight it has in the world at present. Political cooperation must be firmly rooted in the economic benefits derived from EEC membership, he believes.

"You can alter the priorities, but there is no alternative to the basis."

He sees no need for a political secretariat at the present stage of political cooperation. The need will come, he thinks, when a single representative of the Nine is acting for the others on the basis of a coherent policy. That day is not imminent. But meanwhile cooperation is working very well in such forums as the Geneva conference on security and cooperation in Europe—thanks in good measure to the sound recommendations of the Davignon report.

Woman writer is most gifted in French school

by Marnix Gijzen

The fast-changing aspects of social life in the past 50 years have had a deep influence on writing in Flanders. The perennial fascination with rural life, that hampered the growth of Flemish letters until 1920 has been replaced by a more European and cosmopolitan view of the world. American influence has been felt in the work of younger writers who succumbed to the lure of Hemingway's cult of the hero but who profited by his economical style.

The weakness for dialect and localisms disappeared; the margin between Dutch and Flemish literature diminished to the point of being scarcely noticeable. The subject matter also changed. The idyllic, sugary or slightly comic picture of life in the villages gave way to the psychological study of middle-class and urban society. On the other hand, the voice of the proletariat became audible. An entirely new element is the reflection of the novelists on Belgium's recent colonial past and responsibility.

The grand old man of the generation born before 1900 is undoubtedly Gerard Walch (born 1898), the most outstanding writer of his time. His numerous novels liberated Flemish letters from narrow provincialism and made him akin to the best Scandinavian story-tellers. Although the scene of his books is usually located in small towns, the action is essentially centred on man, with sometimes a predilection for slightly abnormal types.

Frankly anti-clerical, he at first created a scandal in Roman Catholic circles which has now completely subsided. The *Roots of the Family* and *Houtekiet* are his outstanding works. They have aged well for he has a vigorous style and is a master raconteur.

The two great novels of Jef Geeraerts (born 1930), *Greenland I and II*, as well as several shorter works, are derived from his experiences as a territorial agent in the former Congo. He enjoys physical existence—love and war—with tremendous gusto. His novels are intensely erotic but he avoids vulgarity through a Dionysian lyricism. His torrential style is unique in the Low Countries. To my mind, in Flemish literature, he is a man without par and *facile princeps*.

Johan Daisne (born 1912) and his faithful disciple Hubert Lampo (born 1920),



Georges Simenon, "the Balzac of our age" and creator of Maigret, has never repudiated his Belgian origins.

profess magic-realism, a kind of story-telling in which reality may give way to unbridled fantasy and lyrical imagination. Both achieved excellent results in this vein and several of their works were made into successful films.

L. P. Boon (born 1912) expresses the standpoint of the anarchistic proletariat. He is profuse but communicates with the humblest among men. He has the rare gift of touching the heart of his readers and of inciting them to social indignation if not to revolt.

A good poet, Hugo Claus (born 1929), is also a novelist of note but above all an experimental playwright whose best plays reach a European audience. Although the theatrical production of Josef Van Hoeck (born 1922) is sparse, it is significant and durable.

Among the younger novelists Ward Ruyslinck (born 1929) dominates the scene. A younger writer of definite promise is Jos Vandelo (born 1930). Two poets should be mentioned: Karel Joockheere (born 1906), an elegiac writer of great distinction, and Paul Snoek (born 1933), a delightful literary maverick.

The changing scene has not affected French authors as it did their Flemish counterparts. Their tradition was much more urban and intellectual. One hesitates to claim Henry Michaux (born

1899) as a Belgian since he left the country in 1924 and has been completely absorbed by France. No such reticence should apply to Georges Simenon (born 1900), who has never reneged on his national roots. It would be pretentious to sing his merits. He is rightly considered as the Balzac of our age, a Balzac whose domain is the entire world. Any further eulogy would be faint praise.

The grand old lady of French letters in Belgium is the nonagenarian, Madeleine Gervais (born 1883), whose many novels were acclaimed widely in France, Germany and The Netherlands. Among her more or less naturalistic novels, *Madame Orna* remains a masterpiece.

The most gifted author among French-writing Belgians is Suzanne Lilar (aged about 60). Among her plays *Le Burlador* stands out. She views the eternal seducer Don Juan from the feminine standpoint, with deep understanding and unbridled admiration. It is, however, as an essayist that she acquired a universal reputation.

Her magnum opus is undoubtedly *Le Couple*, a penetrating study of human relationship in which she pleads for the "resacralization" of love. It is a dazzling intellectual and emotional performance. She has written vigorous and superbly intelligent criticism on Sartre

and on Simone de Beauvoir. No man in Belgian letters can be called her equal. Her talented daughter, Françoise Millet-Joris (aged about 40), has become a member of the Goncourt circle. All her novels appeared in American translation. They deal touchingly with her youth in Antwerp and later with her wider experiences in the Paris intellectual underworld.

A lone wolf in Belgian letters is the banker, Daniel Gille (born 1917). He has written three remarkable biographies of Tolstoy, Chekhov, and D. H. Lawrence. In this field he is called "a brilliant scholar-craftsman". His novels *Jetons de présence* and *Le coupon 44* deal with economic cooperation during the last war. Other novels critical of Belgian society are *Le maître* and *Le maître*.

Alexis Carver (born 1906) is a case apart. He became famous through his novel *Tempo di Roma*, a historical novel of the eternal city which makes one regret that he is not more productive. The novels of Maud Frère are given a special flavour by a delightful mixture of reality and fantasy.

It is a striking characteristic of French literature in Belgium that most of the significant authors prefer to express themselves through the theatre. The most outstanding and productive is Paul Willems (born 1912), who

who has acquired an international audience. His plays are timeless, full of delicate droplets and poetic harmonies. Cloosson (b. 1901), is a gentle ironic and likes to reduce heroic heroes to human proportions. The best of his works is *Shakespeare ou la vie de l'acteur*.

Charles Berin (b. 1919), the author of a remarkable novel, is essentially a playwright, a dramatist, forceful and culine. Georges Sion (b. 1913), surprised people with his play *Le Maître d'Enfer*, which is called "a brilliant scholarly exercise". In later works he has developed his talent. I owe a number of his critical, if bald farces. J. Mogin (born 1921), is ambitious; in his work, a permanent element in Belgian letters, prevails. His characters are dripped and doomed by a relentless and severe need of the alibi.

Marnix Gijzen is a pseudonym of Jan-Albert Ge (born 1899), a Belgian-Dutch novelist, essayist, a playwright. His novel *The Book of Joachim of Baby* appeared in English translation in London, in 19 Lament for Agnes will be published in New York by Paul Willems (born 1912), who

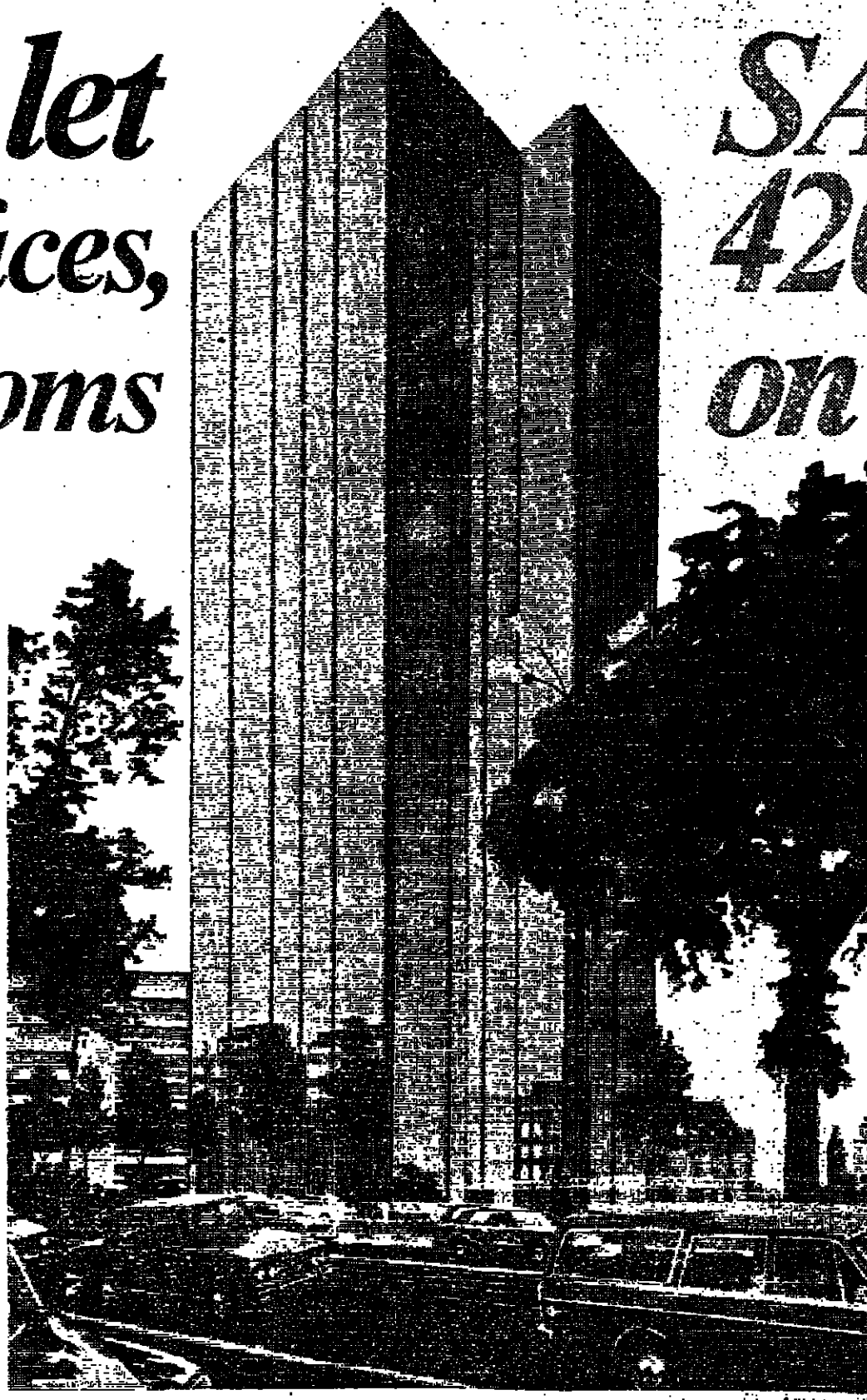
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The defensive case for buying Beecham

A strength of the pre-1973 second half, only outrageous optimism has been expected to hold the pace of the right through to the 1973-74 year. Not, of course, that it was ever likely to be a victim of the economy-wide reduction, in fact, was roughly normal levels of the domestic market through the final and the much more (and ongoing) property flat second half for long-term profits was that rising costs.



Lord Kearton, chairman of Courtaulds: making earlier profit predictions look conservative

out the whole of the 3 per cent second-half then, has been general overseas operations. The year as a whole attributed some 70 per cent of the overall gain. The e is of growth across a m, both in pharmaceutical consumer products' lagged proving the side, or, more precisely cosmetics side—in Europe.

the shares at 215p and 104 times latest earnings. Beecham main question was how much further the wishes to carry the re-financing process, in a year when many will be hard put even in earnings. Beecham

73-74 (1972-73) Capitalization £101m Sales £130m (1973-74) Capitalization £101m Sales £130m (1973-74) Capitalization £101m Sales £130m

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the United Kingdom, appears to have held at level throughout the year, nestic sales up by 13 per cent, inevitably, there must worry as to whether last exceptionally high level stability can be main-

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£7.35m, comfortably above market targets of around £7m. Moreover, its view of current period prospects is less guarded than most; having come through the three-day week virtually intact thanks to standby power, it is once again budgeting for more profit, although significantly the growth is likely to come from overseas. That agrees with the 1973 trend when overseas business accounted for 55 per cent of sales.

At home, margins were under pressure early on with Ozalid pointing out that there had been no general price increases for many of its reprographic products since the beginning of 1972. The prices logjam broke in the second half, however, and on the back of rapidly rising prices of, for instance, chemicals for sensitized paper, it reckons to have cut increases averaging some 27 per cent since November. At the same time, chemical formulations were changed to adapt to new cost circumstances. If anything, the picture overseas has been somewhat more flexible.

The ambition, then, must be to hold margins at home and continue to fasten them up in overseas territories, and there is no reason why this should not be achieved.

Not that Ozalid's defensive qualities have escaped the market's notice. With the shares at 175p, selling at 12 times historic earnings and yielding 4.1 per cent, the rating is suitably ambitious. One doubt, though, which the accounts will answer, liquidly may look slightly more sound than last year ago. It would not be surprising to see Ozalid going for a long-term funding operation.

Final: 1973 (1972) Capitalization £40.9m Sales £63.1m (£45.6m) Pre-tax profits £7.35m (£5.79m) Earnings per share 15.5p (£13.5p) Dividend gross 7.15p (£6.82p)

Wedgwood

Demand remains strong

Wedgwood had a strong final quarter with profits going ahead by 42 per cent against a sales rise of 25 per cent, and this seems to point to improvements at one or more of the three loss-makers Royal, Tuscany, Wedgwood and Crown Staffordshire. Moreover, that final quarter gain would have been 72 per cent but for the fact that currency profits have been added to the 1972-73 pre-tax figure and has been restated from £2.53m.

Overall, the prospect for Wedgwood this year is mixed. Demand remains good, particularly in the all-important North American markets. Almost two thirds of total sales are exported although how much longer these overseas markets will absorb cost increases which cannot be recovered in the United Kingdom is an open question.

In addition to raw material cost problems, such as china, glass, Wedgwood now faces difficulty obtaining supplies for the first time in many years. How much this affects the picture for the current year should become clearer when the annual report is made. Meanwhile, the shares at 110p where the historic p/e ratio is 5.1, look fairly valued against the market. The dividend is covered 7.2 times by earnings and offers a yield of only 3.75 per cent so there is no reason to hold the shares on income grounds either.

Final: 1973-74 (1972-73) Capitalization £12.9m Sales £20.2m (£23.1m) Pre-tax profits £4.24m (£2.74m) Earnings per share 19.97p (£14.68p) Dividend gross 4.135p (£3.938p)

Ozalid

Beating best expectations

Ozalid has lived up to its promise with a heady set of second-half figures that have left profits for 1973 27 per cent higher at

in St Martin's le Grand or in King Edward Street. Mining Lane has grey areas, the Cory Building exterior in Fenchurch Street definitely belongs to the age of steam and an especially grimy exterior in City buildings, which only in relation to their ours and to the magnificent cleaning jobs done on all and upon the Law in The Strand.

Sanctity is sullied by the hangdog look of St Stephen's, Walbrook, by St Magnus the Martyr, Lower Thames Street, St Andrew and St Catherine, Leadenhall Street, and by St Martin's, Ludgate Hill.

All these are set a poor example by the Houses of Parliament, with the Lords as grubby as the Commons, while even St James's Palace could do with some loving-care.

With the City fathers constantly telling us that their parish has never been more the cynosure of all eyes, they seem to tolerate a remarkable amount of grime. It's all a far cry from the time described by Thackeray in his paper on Great City Streets when gentlemen would have it brought in washed silver.

Engine test

Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of Hill Samuel and of Rolls-Royce (1971) Limited, is in the United States and may therefore only yesterday have caught up with reports of Thatcher's defeat in the Commons on the sale of arms to Chile. On that day, the Prime Minister said that the Rolls-Royce would "pull out of contracts with the Chilean Air Force for the overhaul of

aero engines and the supply of engine spares.

Sir Kenneth, wearing his Rolls-Royce hat, recently addressed the British Institute of Management in Derby, Rolls-Royce's home town, and after referring to the inadvisability of "serious cuts" in defence procurement, went on as follows: "There is another area that worries me and that is the way customer nations fall in and out of favour when either they or we have governmental changes. If we black equipment or forbid exports because some people do not like a particular regime it can affect not only that particular order but a lot of other orders, too.

The threshold "clock", as it is known in Whitehall, reaches zero hour today. All the indications are that it will trigger a double, if not indeed a triple, detonation in the form of automatic pay increases at the end of next week for those who have taken advantage of this position of the Phase Three pay code.

Specifically, if the retail price index (RPI) for April to be published later today reaches 198.4 per cent, it will trigger a 40p a week rise for those covered by threshold clauses. If it reaches 200.3 it will trigger an 80p a week rise and if it reaches 202.1, it will trigger a £1.20p a week rise.

Best guesses put the outcome very close to 202.1, partly because the April figure is always boosted exceptionally by the annual increase in local authority rates.

The crucial question for policy makers at the moment—and looking ahead to the Government's preparations for a non-statutory successor to Phase Three as a main instrument of pay restraint and therefore of inflation control—is whether the threshold mechanism is indeed an infernal machine for accelerating the process whereby pay and prices chase each other round the limitless spiral of cost inflation.

As a mechanism for accelerating the pay-price spiral, threshold agreements turn out to be surprisingly inefficient, at least as provided for in the Phase Three pay code. First, prices have to rise 6 per cent before the cost of living feed-back effect on pay begins to operate (up to 40p per week for every 1 per cent beyond the 6 per cent).

Secondly, there is about a seven-week lag between prices reaching a particular level (and even that is only taken to be the actual rise recorded, although the RPI itself may be rounded up as well as down) and pay being affected. Indeed, for monthly-paid staff the delay is longer.

Thirdly, 40p is by now significantly below 1 per cent of the national average wage for men (now close to £50 per week), although since it is also payable for women where employees have been able to negotiate arrangements with the employers, it may not be much below average earnings of men and women. In practice, however, it appears that employers have resisted full threshold adjustment clauses at 40p a week, and others have paid markedly below 40p a week.

Fourthly, threshold agreements have been extended to a mere fraction of the total labour force—6.9 million on the latest official estimate. But some qualifications: a very modest order of magnitude indeed.

Even this overstates the true impact of threshold clauses on the RPI, although the effect on industry's unit costs and so possibly on the competitiveness of exports and all will be more serious.

First, no allowance is made in the calculation for the fact that principal settlements may well have been lower because of the availability of threshold clauses—more strictly a very modest order of magnitude indeed.

Secondly, no allowance is made for the impact of threshold agreements during 1974 on the next round of principal settlements next winter.

Officially, much importance is attached to this point. The argument is that the traditional trade union negotiation starts with a demand for an increase to cover the cost of living rise during the current settlement. This time employers will be able with chapter and verse to demonstrate—to those who have been covered by threshold agreements—that all but 6 per cent of that potentially very large rise has already been paid "on account".

Thirdly, no allowance is made for the fact that no inflationary forces been at work (or only to the extent of 6.9 per cent a year), the threshold clauses would not have been triggered at all and there would still have been the gain of lower principal settlements.

Certainly that gamble has failed spectacularly, as has the 3 per cent growth assumption which the previous Government took when deciding the terms of Phase Three.

But the consequential damage is very limited compared with the basic forces—rising import prices and excessive principal pay settlements—which have

already produced such a sharp rate of inflation, including much that is still in the pipeline between costs and prices (hence in part the rapid continuing rate of growth in the RPI this year assumed in the table).

What then follows for policy? On the one hand, there is no crisis necessity to suspend by law the operation of those threshold agreements which have been and may yet be negotiated during Phase Three. On the other hand it is probably desirable to discourage the wide application of threshold clauses in future years.

One should not be dogmatic about this last point. If, for example, the Government thought it faced a choice between, say, pure indexing with no principal settlements, threshold agreements triggered at 10 per cent (up to the going inflation rate) with maximum principal settlements of 10-1 per cent or principal settlements above the going rate of inflation without any cost of living adjustments thereafter, then the Chancellor would probably prefer either of the first two alternatives.

But there are serious inherent disadvantages in threshold clauses which make them undesirable unless a clear and unmistakable *quid pro quo* in terms of restraint over principal pay settlements is available.

For one thing, as Mr Healey has already complained in the Budget (and more expressively in private), threshold clauses embarras short-term demand management, for example by making it difficult for the Treasury to raise indirect taxes

clock stops in October 1974. One of the necessary conditions for threshold agreements not to be counted against the permissible limits for principal settlements is that "the arrangement runs for not more than 12 months from the date of publication of the RPI figure for October 1973" (Price and Pay Code, para 176(i)).

The RPI figure for October 1974 is due to be published towards the end of next November; and therefore the last Phase Three threshold payments will be due at the end of the first week in December (or, for monthly-paid staff, at the end of December).

When these frictions, leakages and delays are taken together, it is possible to estimate very roughly what the once-and-for-all impact of Phase Three thresholds on the RPI by the end of this year and by the middle of next year might be.

The precision in the table is entirely spurious, being the product of many approximations; but it suggests a very modest order of magnitude indeed.

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'Thresholds' of hyper-inflation or cost of living safeguards

THE RPI-THRESHOLD-RPI CIRCUS

1 Month	2 RPI at 12.3% per month from April 1973	3 Percent rise over October 73 less 8 percent threshold	4 Threshold payment in month per man per week	5 Numbers eligible ²	6 Effect on Dec 1 '74 RPI	7 Effect on June '75 RPI
April	202.1	3%	June 120p	6.9m	0.49%	0.66%
May	204.6	4%	July 40p	7.1m	0.13%	0.20%
June	207.2	5%	Aug 40p	7.3m	0.11%	0.18%
July	210.8	7%	Sept 80p	7.5m	0.17%	0.35%
Aug	214.4	8%	Oct 40p	7.7m	0.06%	0.16%
Sept	218.1	10%	Nov 80p	7.9m	0.06%	0.29%
Oct	217.7	11%	Dec 40p	8.1m	0.00%	0.12%
Cumulated effect on R.P.I.					1.02%	1.97%

- * Estimated
- 1. On assumptions that 1 per cent rise in national average wages (in excess of increase in productivity) adds 0.6 per cent to RPI in 6 months and 0.8 per cent in 12 months and that average wage in April of men and women eligible was £42 per week.
- 2. Present total plus conservative estimate of future threshold settlements.
- 3. Allowing for minimal feed-back effect of early threshold payments.

Peter Jay asks if threshold agreements will start a limitless inflationary spiral

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Preliminary Announcement

COURTAULDS

Profit and Dividend 1973/74

The results for the year to March show record exports, record capital investment, record total sales, and record profits. The Group made a net contribution of £155m. to the U.K. current balance of payments from its own exports and overseas earnings after allowing for its own imports and other foreign exchange costs.

The detailed figures are:

	Year to 31st March 1974 £m.	Year to 31st March 1973 £m.	Increase %
World Sales to External Customers	956.8	777.1	23
Exports from United Kingdom	217.8	145.4	50
Profit before Taxation (after depreciation £41.9m. - 1973 £37.0m.)	116.3	68.2	71
Profit after Taxation	89.4	55.9	60
Courtaulds Shareholders' Interest	84.1	52.2	61
Earnings per Ordinary Share	P/Share 31.05p	P/Share 19.23p	

Expenditure on new assets in the year amounted to £90.7m. (1973 £38.8m.).

The improved results derive substantially from the increased volume of sales, especially exports at profitable prices, and from overseas activities. Sales in the U.K. were up by 13% and those of overseas companies by 25%.

Taxation amounted to £26.9m. (1973 £12.3m.), including £12.2m. abroad (1973 £8.0m.) and £3.2m. of Advance Corporation Tax (1973 £4.2m.).

The Board intends to recommend a final dividend of 3.44p per 25p Ordinary Share, which together with the imputed tax credit is equivalent to a gross dividend of 5.136p making a total of 7.579p for the year. Under the Government's Counter-Inflation regulations this is the maximum permitted. It compares with 7.219p in 1972/73. The cost of the Ordinary and Preference dividends is £14.1m. (1973 £15.5m.) after deducting Advance Corporation Tax of £6.6m. (1973 on final only £4.2m.).

The accounts will be posted on 24th June 1974 and the Annual General Meeting will be held on 17th July 1974.

The Ordinary Final Dividend will be paid (if approved) on 25th July to shareholders on the register on 23rd May 1974.

Courtaulds Limited

23rd May 1974

L. R. Croydon

Secretary

18 Hanover Square, London W1A 2BB.

Business Diary: City grime • Of arms and the chairman

1 Heath's "unacceptable capitalism" seems to have given way since the to the unacceptable face alism. There is, however, pause of arguably unacceptable face remains. This undeniably grimy exterior in City buildings, which only in relation to their ours and to the magnificent cleaning jobs done on all and upon the Law in The Strand.

Sanctity is sullied by the hangdog look of St Stephen's, Walbrook, by St Magnus the Martyr, Lower Thames Street, St Andrew and St Catherine, Leadenhall Street, and by St Martin's, Ludgate Hill.

All these are set a poor example by the Houses of Parliament, with the Lords as grubby as the Commons, while even St James's Palace could do with some loving-care.

With the City fathers constantly telling us that their parish has never been more the cynosure of all eyes, they seem to tolerate a remarkable amount of grime. It's all a far cry from the time described by Thackeray in his paper on Great City Streets when gentlemen would have it brought in washed silver.

Engine test

Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of Hill Samuel and of Rolls-Royce (1971) Limited, is in the United States and may therefore only yesterday have caught up with reports of Thatcher's defeat in the Commons on the sale of arms to Chile. On that day, the Prime Minister said that the Rolls-Royce would "pull out of contracts with the Chilean Air Force for the overhaul of

aero engines and the supply of engine spares.

Sir Kenneth, wearing his Rolls-Royce hat, recently addressed the British Institute of Management in Derby, Rolls-Royce's home town, and after referring to the inadvisability of "serious cuts" in defence procurement, went on as follows: "There is another area that worries me and that is the way customer nations fall in and out of favour when either they or we have governmental changes. If we black equipment or forbid exports because some people do not like a particular regime it can affect not only that particular order but a lot of other orders, too.



Dennis Landau: new boy makes good

aero engines and the supply of engine spares.

Sir Kenneth, wearing his Rolls-Royce hat, recently addressed the British Institute of Management in Derby, Rolls-Royce's home town, and after referring to the inadvisability of "serious cuts" in defence procurement, went on as follows: "There is another area that worries me and that is the way customer nations fall in and out of favour when either they or we have governmental changes. If we black equipment or forbid exports because some people do not like a particular regime it can affect not only that particular order but a lot of other orders, too.

One other recent job was the treatment for the same pest of a music cabinet, part of whose contents turned out to be the remains of a ditty entitled Little Creatures Everywhere.

"Customers, whatever their domestic political set-up, require reliability of delivery from their suppliers and they do not expect sudden changes in political control at home or abroad to affect these deliveries."

Presumably Sir Kenneth is now making up his mind whether to be affected by sudden changes, and if he does not, what he ought to be doing about it. Sir Kenneth is, so far, resolutely unavailable for comment.

Pet pests

East Grinstead, for those who do not know the place, is a name redolent of Beryl Maundling's pet theatre, the Adelphi Circus, and of the baleful mavericks that issue forth from the local Sociology headquarters.

However, there is also the odd chuckle to be had from another East Grinstead source: the Royal Entomology Society, which is the pest control firm which went public in 1969.

The firm's experts on the common furniture beetle were recently asked to fumigate a harp at the request of its owner, a lady who said she needed it on a journey. The was about to make. A Rentokil spokesman said yesterday that the staff hoped the destination she arrived at was the one she was aiming for.

One other recent job was the treatment for the same pest of a music cabinet, part of whose contents turned out to be the remains of a ditty entitled Little Creatures Everywhere.

The lab staff now have the pleasant duty of informing a 19-year-old Sheffield typist that the holes peppered the

Base Rate change

Barclays Bank International Limited announces that with effect from 23rd May 1974 its Base Rate was decreased from 12½% to 12% per annum.

The basic interest rate for deposits will remain at 9½% per annum.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Housing slump brings prospect of 'appalling' year for London Brick

By David Mott

The full implications of the slump in housebuilding on the industry's major suppliers were brought into sharp focus yesterday by Sir Ronald Stewart, chairman of London Brick Company, when he spoke to shareholders at the annual meeting.

The company faces an "extremely poor" first half to be followed by a "most disappointing" year, Sir Ronald said. Brick deliveries were substantially down on last year; production has had to be cut (partly by phasing out old plant); and unless there was a marked improvement in housebuilding over the next few weeks more substan-

tial and damaging cuts in production appeared inescapable.

He told shareholders that the company had never known a position quite as bad as this. The first quarter had shown a fall of 46 per cent in housing starts and 1974 was likely to be an appalling year for housing. If present estimates proved correct only 245,000 houses would be started—83,000 down on last year and 105,000 less than in 1972.

In addition to all this cuts in government expenditure on other public sector work were beginning to bite, and would do so increasingly, while Government exhortation and money to local authorities was unlikely to bring a substantial improvement

in the start of schemes this year. This left commercial and industrial building as the only sector where conditions were reasonably buoyant.

The financial implication for the company's margins and cash flow was serious and price control was making the position even more difficult. Following the approval of a 3 per cent price rise in February a further application is to be made.

Sir Ronald said even a small improvement in housebuilding would greatly assist the company and he saw the immediate task as weathering the present storm. Last year pre-tax profits grew from £7.6m to £8.9m. The shares fell by 4½p yesterday to close at 40p.

Huge interim rise at Associated Fisheries

By Our Financial Staff

Reporting a huge half-year increase in pre-tax profits from £1.75m to £4.99m for the period ended March 31, Mr. Paul Tapscott chairman of Associated Fisheries, says that all group divisions contributed to this result.

Sales rose from £30.7m to £37.8m, reflecting buoyant market conditions in the market for fish.

However, Mr. Tapscott anticipates some slowing down of the growth rate over the rest of the year which will bear the main burden of what he terms "immense inflation of costs", including an increased fuel oil cost of £1.5m.

Associated Fisheries, with a fleet of 148 trawlers, is the United Kingdom's largest trawling group. Mr. Tapscott emphasized the importance of

government action on building grants which remained suspended adequate explanation. "If the British fishery is to be kept at an size and competitive with fleets this is a matter national importance."

CRODA INTERNATIONAL
In spite of queries or figures for first quarter and Mr. P. Wood, say he will be most successful year. There is no general growth will continue rate and at this stage say what 1974 outcome

FRANK GATES
Taxable profits up to £54,000 last year. Share were 15p (16.6p).

The British Investment Trust

Highlights from the Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st March 1974.

Year to 31st March	Total Assets £	Total Revenue £	Earnings %	Dividend %	Asset Value * per Ord. Share
1967	56,400,000	2,097,000	12.30	12	89p
1968	82,300,000	2,442,000	12.66	12½	129p
1969	106,800,000	2,695,000	13.06	13	168p
1970	96,300,000	3,145,000	13.76	13½	144½p
1971	96,800,000	3,411,000	15.13	14½	146p
1972	134,200,000	3,568,000	15.97	15½	206½p
1973	134,000,000	3,923,000	16.02	16½	202p
1974	105,600,000	4,793,000	(net) 14.79	(net) 12½ + 1½	148½p

* Before conversion of Convertible Debenture Stocks

REVENUE

Total Revenue includes £220,000 of U.K. dividends deferred from the previous year as well as unusually large amounts of short term deposit interest.

Earnings and Dividends this year are declared net. Earnings of 14.79% net compare with an approximate equivalent net figure of 11.2% for last year.

Dividends of 12½% net have been declared for the year compared with the approximate equivalent of 11½% net last year. In addition a special non-recurring dividend of 1½% net has been declared. As a result the dividend rate has more than doubled over the past ten years.

CAPITAL

The fall in U.K. markets during the year accounts for by far the largest part of the reduction in Total Assets. Properties have shown only a modest fall in value by comparison.

Oil and oil service companies now make up more than 12% of the portfolio and include major positions in leading North Sea participants such as Halliburton and Burmah Oil.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, The British Investment Trust Limited, 46 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3BR.

The Net Asset Value has fallen by 26%, but is still 88% above the 1964 figure.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Only nominal dividend increases can be expected from U.K. companies in the current year, however dividends from overseas should show further increases and interest rates are likely to continue at a high level.

Overall we are confident that we will be able to maintain our basic dividend rate of 12½% for the current year.

In the U.K. a prolonged period of uncertainty for industry and the stock market is indicated. Nevertheless high quality, well managed companies should in the longer term reward the patient investor.

In North America most of our investments are still producing excellent figures. With many leading growth companies selling at historically cheap levels the potential stock market recovery is attractive.

INTERIM STATEMENT

LONRHO

HALF-YEARLY RESULTS

The unaudited results of the Lonrho Group of companies in respect of the six months ended 31st March, 1974 are as follows:-

	Six months ended 31st March, 1974	1973	Year ended 30th Sept., 1973
	£ million	£ million	£ million
Turnover	144.3	110.4	235.95
Profit before Taxation:			
Group	12.7	8.2	23.93
Associates	3.3	1.4	5.44
	16.0	9.6	29.37
Taxation	8.2	5.2	14.04
Profits after Taxation	7.8	4.4	15.33
Minority Interests	3.0	1.2	4.14
Profit attributable to Lonrho shareholders (before extraordinary items)	4.8	3.2	11.19

Cheapside House, London, EC2V 6BL

23rd May, 1974

Results

Assoc Eng go over forecast

Though showing a drop from £3.91m to £3.03m in pre-tax profit for the opening half, Associated Engineering has performed much better than expected two months ago when it forecast the output at some £2.25m. Turnover for the period rose 16 per cent to £77.9m. Net profit sagged from £2.15m to £1.4m and the "attributable" from £1.93m to £1.2m. The interim dividend is 13½p against 13p.

Exports in the latest half increased 28 per cent and sales of overseas companies at the same rate. Combined, they represent some 39 per cent of total turnover.

As expected, profits were affected by the power strike and heavy costs incurred in minimizing the effects of restrictions, while interest payments rose from £1.39m to £1.99m. However, current indications are that second-half profits should match the £4.75m for the corresponding period. If this is the case, the total dividend will be maintained.

J. & J. Dyson slips

On turnover up 10 per cent to £8.56m for the six months to September 30, J. & J. Dyson, makers of refractory materials, turns in taxable profit down from £606,000 to £371,000, accompanied by a forecast of full-time earnings slightly above £1m compared with £1.41m. Two damaging influences were the oil price increases and the miners' strike. On the brighter side, order books are full for domestic customers and for export. As known, the interim dividend is maintained at 18½p.

£1.7m by Hay's Wharf

With the smoke from the abortive bid from St Martins Property Corporation still lingering in the board of Proprietors of Hay's Wharf has taken stock of the group's trading progress and found that interim taxable profits are slightly higher than budgeted levels.

The pre-tax is up from £1.49m to a record £1.73m, while the attributable stands at £1.17m, against £933,000. The gross interim dividend rises from 18½p to 1.93p. The capital development time-table is being adhered to; the only hitch seems to be at the redevelopment in Toley Street, where publication of the planning brief has been delayed.

Armitage Shanks

Had it not been for the £315,000 reduction in second-half profits caused by the national emergency, profits of the Armitage Shanks Group for the period would, as predicted,

have beaten the £1.94m achieved after six months. In the event, £1.88m was brought in, giving the group a record outturn of £3.4m against £3.4m. Turnover went ahead from £20.4m to £22.9m. The dividend is raised from 7p to 9.17p as forecast.

Record interim profit from Stenhouse

Growing from £2.19m to a record £2.25m after six months Stenhouse Holdings, the insurance and industrial group, says the benefits of its merger with Reed Shaw Osler, of Canada, are now beginning to emerge and profits will continue to grow beyond the original projections, particularly in the United Kingdom.

After an extraordinary debit of £218,000 (£121,000 credit) earnings, a share stay at 3p. Total insurance broking profits rose from £2.86m to £3.67m with £2m (£1.57m) attributable to Stenhouse Holdings. On the industrial side the three-day week cut its toll and profits were down from £697,000 to £474,000.

J. Brockhouse

Taxable profits of J. Brockhouse, the West Bromwich-based engineering group, nearly doubled from £505,000 to £1m in the half year to March 31. Turnover was up by 27 per cent from £17.5m to £22.1m. The board believes that second half results will be at least equal to those of the first, indicating a record £2m pre-tax.

Exchange Telegraph

Another record year has been achieved by the Exchange Telegraph (Holdings) group. Turnover for 1973-74 rose from £10.5m to £11.05m while taxable profits reached £1.81m, against £1.79m.

Net profits are down from £1m to £866,000 before adding extraordinary items of £479,000, against £31,000. These last are profits arising from the sale of leases and a subsidiary.

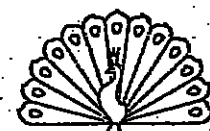
Pritchard Services

Although the overseas expansion of the Pritchard Services Group is still in its infancy, it has helped the group to withstand difficult trading conditions and depressed profits from United Kingdom building cleaning. Following the interim rise in profits from £563,000 to £626,000, the group has achieved a 10 per cent increase to a record £1.48m for 1973.

Turnover is up from £18.6m to £26.8m, and earnings a share are down from 3.33p to 2.76p after adjusting for scrip.

Brunning foiled

The Brunning Group of advertising agents hoped to sustain profits for 1973-74 at around last year's £729,000. In the event, after an 8.7 per cent rise at mid-term the second half succumbed to the economic crisis, which pushed profits for the half down by 16.3 per cent to £350,000 and the year's figures by 5.6 per cent to £688,000.



home chart
Cline Road, New South
London N11 2NA

Extracts from the Annual Report for 1973, by the Chairman Mr. Gerald Fogel, J.P.

Group Turnover up 28% to £5,640.71
Pretax Profits up 37% to £482,083
Equivalent Gross Dividend 37%
(28% last year)

The results are extremely gratifying considering abnormally uneven pattern of trading during 1973: S were buoyant for the first quarter, but following introduction of VAT it was not until the last quarter sales returned to their normal trading pattern.

Larger units were opened, though trading in some deferred, and smaller and less profitable units were sold profit. Resultant net increase of selling area was approximately 48,000 sq. ft.

The substantially higher stock reflected in Accounts helped us take maximum advantage of increased demand in the first quarter of 1974, for sales were well on last year despite the State of Emergency.

With the continued rise in labour costs, more per are carrying out their own home improvements. Y Board are actively seeking suitable new units from wt to retail the ever-increasing range of D.I.Y. produ

TEXAS
Homecare Centres

Coutts & Co

Messrs. Coutts & Co. announce that, for balances in their books on and after the 23rd May, 1974

and until further notice, their Base Rate for lending is 12% per annum.

The Deposit Rate on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal is as follows:

Balances under £10,000. 9½% per annum
Balances of £10,000 and over 10½% per annum

New Issue

This advertisement appears as a matter of record only.

\$43,000,000

IAC LIMITED

9¼% Secured Notes Series "40"

Dated May 15, 1974

To Mature May 15, 1994

Price: 100 United States Funds

The sale of these Notes has been arranged privately by the undersigned.

Greenshields & Co Inc

Wood Gandy Incorporated

National Westminster Bank

Rate Changes

National Westminster Bank announces that for balances in its books from and including Thursday 23rd May, 1974, its **Base Rate** for lending is reduced from 12½% to 12% per annum and its **Deposit Rate** for balances of £10,000 or more is reduced from 11% to 10½% per annum.

All other Rates, including its 7-day Deposit Rate for balances below £10,000 remains unchanged.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Lesney is kept at full stretch

Though Lesney Products achieved record sales of £24m last year, it failed by a wide margin to meet orders, Mr Paul Tapscott, chairman, writes. This was caused by shortages of labour and production facilities as well as by external strikes. Long-term plans will require an additional, major production complex and the method of financing this is being studied. But Mr Tapscott asks how long shareholders will accept an "inadequate" return because of dividend restraint. Lesney's return on capital was 20 per cent last year, but its property throughout the world is being revalued and (because of the higher depreciation) the return on capital will be "depressed substantially". Products have been "re-priced" to cover steep increases in material costs. Orders are at a record, every plant should be fully employed throughout this year and "further progress" should be achieved in results.

Weather claims on Phoenix

The recent floods in Australia are expected to cost Phoenix Assurance about £450,000 this year. And the tornadoes in the United States could possibly involve the company in a further £800,000.

Viscount De L'Isle told the annual meeting that the nature of the company's business was such that extraordinary losses from climatic causes must be expected now and again. He said it was too early to forecast the effect on results for the year.

Turner & Newall

The three day week did not quite take the toll of Turner & Newall's profits that was feared. The first three months show a 45 per cent fall in trading profits, while overseas operations are, as expected, up one third. Total trading profits are down by 12 per cent but this does not take account of special items and dividends from associated companies.

On the present position, the chairman, Mr Ralph Bateman says that exports continue to be the bright spot, while at home material and labour shortages, plus the effect of price controls on margins, cast a shadow. However, the outlook for the full year is "quite favourable".

Baxters' fine finish

Just over two weeks ago Brooke Bond Liebig made an agreed takeover bid for Baxters (Butchers) and Baxters reveal record turnover and profits for 1973-74. The group's full taxable profit has bounded 58.8 per cent from £1.26m to £2m. Turnover went up from £27.37m to £36.2m. A second interim of 2.63p has been declared making the year's total 4.13p (3.93p). A revaluation of group properties shows a surplus of £4.6m.

GILL & DUFFUS

For 1973 turnover was £284.5m and still higher figure expected for 1974; group moving away from dependence on cocoa.

WEIR GROUP

Some improvement is seen for 1973, but first half will not be good.

BRIDON

Mr Harry Smith, told shareholders that in spite of restrictions on power supplies, results for first quarter were better than for same period in 1973.

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS

Mr David Greig told shareholders that report and accounts showed greater achievement. Results for first quarter ahead of those for same period last year.

ASSOCIATED FISHERIES

HALF YEAR REPORT 1974

66 The trading result for the half-year ended 31st March, 1974 exceeded last year by a useful margin. Whilst this result is very satisfactory it must be borne in mind that the immense inflation of costs, facing industry as a whole, will have a far greater impact on the ensuing months of the current financial year. As mentioned in the Chairman's Statement with the 1972/3 Accounts, the full year will have to bear an increased fuel oil cost approaching £1.5m and the bulk of this will fall in the second half-year, when there will also be increased labour costs.

With so many imponderables facing industry in general, and our industry in particular, I would not wish to give any specific forecast at this stage of the likely result for the remainder of the financial year, although the longer term outlook for our activities continues to be promising.

In accordance with our usual calendar, the Directors will declare a first Interim Dividend in September next. It is anticipated that this will be not less than last year's payment of 9% gross, including the imputed tax credit. 99

P. M. TAPSCOTT, Chairman

Unaudited Accounts for six months to 31st March 1974 and comparative figures	Half Year to 31st March 1974	Half Year to 31st March 1973	Year to 30th Sept. 1973
Group Turnover	37,865,000	30,700,000	67,834,000
Estimated Group Net Profit before Taxation	4,990,580	1,751,657	6,459,567
Deduct: Share of Losses less Profits of Associated Companies	418,000	203,600	567,533
Deduct: Estimated Taxation	4,572,580	1,548,075	5,892,024
Deduct: Minorities	2,354,524	693,750	2,591,707
Deduct: Preference Dividends	531,409	199,425	704,831
Net Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	1,686,647	654,900	2,595,486
Net Profit per Ordinary Share of 25p	13.213	18.875	29.286
Estimated Taxation is calculated on the basis of 52% Corporation Tax (1973: 45%).	£1,673,434	£636,025	£2,566,230
	9.67p	3.80p	15.17p

ASSOCIATED FISHERIES LIMITED, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AQ.
TRAWLING AND ENGINEERING FOOD PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION
COLD STORAGE AND TRANSPORT FAST FOOD

Erith & COMPANY LIMITED

BUILDERS' MERCHANTS

Annual General Meeting 23rd May, 1974
The Chairman, Mr. E. J. Erith reported:

	1971	1972	1973
Group Sales £000's	7,550	8,863	10,902
Group Profit £000's	445	765	870
Dividend (Gross) per Share (pence)	5.00	5.25	5.5125

Adjusted.

Review of 1973. Trading Profit was again at a record level of our future prospects were enhanced by the purchase of two additional builders' merchants businesses. There has been considerable capital expenditure on premises which contributing to the increase in profitable ex-stock trade. These achievements reflect great credit on the staff in the often difficult conditions prevailing in the building industry.

Prospects for 1974. Sales for the first four months are well beyond our expectations, considering the economic climate and the effects of shortages caused by the three-day week. This trend continues and at present there is no indication that it will not, there should be a satisfactory increase in trading profit in 1974. The Parent Company and Subsidiaries including the new acquisition, are all contributing to this result. Subject to unforeseen circumstances the Dividend will be increased up to Statutory limitations.

Erith & Co. Ltd., Builders Merchants
Head Office: 530 High Road, Leytonstone
London E11 3EQ.

Issues & Loans

Success for York Water preferred

Following the poor response to the most recent water company issues, the £1m 10 per cent offering of redeemable preference stock 1979 by York Waterworks Co. has got away with considerable success.

Applications were made for £3.7m of stock, and against a minimum tender price of £100 per cent, the lowest price to obtain a partial allotment was £101.75.

The average price obtained was £102.3. Brokers to the issue were Seymour, Pierce and Dealings will start today.

Eurobond prices midday indicators

Country	1971	1972	1973
Belgium	100.00	100.00	100.00
France	100.00	100.00	100.00
Germany	100.00	100.00	100.00
Italy	100.00	100.00	100.00
Netherlands	100.00	100.00	100.00
Spain	100.00	100.00	100.00
Sweden	100.00	100.00	100.00
Switzerland	100.00	100.00	100.00
UK	100.00	100.00	100.00
US	100.00	100.00	100.00

ED

EIDAI CO., LTD.

(EIDAI SANGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA)

U.S. \$10,000,000

7½% Convertible Bonds due 30th June, 1989

All these Bonds having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

The Royal Bank of Scotland

INTEREST RATES

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited announces that with effect from 24th May 1974 its base rate for lending is being reduced from 12½ per cent per annum to 12 per cent per annum. The maximum rate of interest allowed on deposits lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal at the London Offices of the Bank will continue at 9½ per cent per annum for balances under £10,000 and is being reduced from 11 per cent per annum to 10½ per cent per annum on balances of £10,000 and over.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, Head Office, B.O. Box 31, 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YE.

THE SOLVAY GROUP

Principal information extracted from the Annual Report for the year 1973

1. COMPARISON OF EXTERNAL SALES, CASH FLOWS AND RESULTS

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
—Consolidated external sales	37 746	42 024	45 226	51 994	63 796
—Cash flow	6 817	6 227	6 344	7 183	9 417
—Depreciation	3 720	4 153	4 396	4 931	6 228
—Consolidated net-profit applicable to Solvay & Cie	2 807	2 074	1 948	2 252	2 610

In 1973, the Group's activity, under the influence of a favourable economic situation, was characterized by the full utilization of productive capacities and by a firmer trend of selling prices, accentuated, as a matter of fact, by increasing inflation. This was reflected in sales to external customers, which rose by 23%, and in the cash flow, which increased by 31%. The latter comprises depreciation, up 26%, and the consolidated net profit, up 42%. This year, there were B. Fr. 133 million of exceptional profits, instead of exceptional charges of B. Fr. 69 million in 1972. Without reaching the 1969 level, profitability markedly exceeded that of 1970-1972.

The share in the net profit applicable to Solvay & Cie is substantially on the increase, as a result of a more considerable rise in the profits of the parent company and of subsidiaries where the Group's shareholding is 100%.

2. COMPARISON OF STATISTICS

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Capital expenditure	5 554	8 210	10 201	7 531	6 406
Research expenditure	989	1 101	1 231	1 402	1 633
Personnel expenditure	10 148	11 466	12 925	14 938	17 366
Sales per person employed	307	379	355	355	355
Net profit per fully paid-up share	421	280	240	240	376
Net dividend per fully paid-up share	145	155	155	160	170
Persons employed at December 31	41 611	42 914	43 716	44 701	44 274

3. DISTRIBUTION OF EXTERNAL SALES

By main product groups:

- Soda-ash and caustic soda
- Salts, fertilizers, sodium and calcium derivatives
- Chlorine and derivatives
- Peroxygen chemicals
- Plastics—resins and compounds
- Plastics—processing
- Sundries (including products of the pharmaceutical industry)

4. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The total research expenditure of the Group amounted to B. Fr. 1,633 million against B. Fr. 1,402 million in 1972, up 16.5%.

The research staff is about 2,000, split between the Central Laboratory and the research centres in the Group's factories.

5. SOLVAY & CIE SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME

The net profit for the year amounts to B. Fr. 1,542 million, a 16% rise compared with 1972. This increase is essentially due to the industrial activity of the company.

The Board of Directors will propose to the General Meeting on 10th June, 1974 to distribute a dividend of B. Fr. 170 per fully paid-up share i.e. B. Fr. 10 more than for the previous year, and to appropriate the available profit, which amounts to B. Fr. 1,613,530,830, as follows:

Net dividend of B. Fr. 170 per A and B share	1 087 041 200
Net dividend of B. Fr. 68 per C share	94 254 120
Withholding tax	295 323 830
Investment reserve (Spain)	95 684 820
Carried forward to next account	41 226 860

B. Fr. 1 613 530 830

Copies of the English version of the Company's Annual Report in which the detailed accounts for 1973 are included, are available on request from Solvay & Cie, Société Anonyme, Secrétaire Général, rue du Prince Albert 33, B 1050—Bruxelles (Belgium).

Nomura Europe N.V.	Algemene Bank Nederland N.V.	Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder, Inc.	Associated Japanese Bank (International) Limited
Australian United Corporation	Julius Baer International	Banca Commerciale Italiana	Banco di Roma
Bank Gutzwiller, Kurz, Bungeener (Overseas)	Bank Mees & Hope NV	The Bank of Tokyo (Holland) N.V.	Banque Ameribas
Banque de Bruxelles S.A.	Banque Européenne de Tokyo	Banque Française de Dépôts et de Titres	Banque Générale du Luxembourg
Banque de l'Indochine	Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A.	Banque Lambert	Banque Nationale de Paris
Banque de Neufville, Schlumberger, Mallet	Banque Rothschild	Banque de Suez et de l'Union des Mines	Banque de l'Union Européenne
Banque de l'Union Parisienne	Banque Worms	Baring Brothers & Co., Limited	Basle Securities Corporation
Bayerische Vereinsbank	Bergens Privatbank	Berliner Bank	Berliner Handels-Gesellschaft - Frankfurter Bank
Caisse Centrale des Banques Populaires	Chase Manhattan	Citicorp International Bank	Commerzbank
Compagnia Finanziaria Interbancaria S.p.A.	Compagnie de Banque et d'Investissements (Underwriters) S.A.	Crédit Général S.A. de Banque	Crédit Lyonnais
Crédit Lyonnais	Creditanstalt-Bankverein	Credito Italiano	Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Nederland N.V.
Richard Dams & Co.	DBS - Daiwa Securities International	Den Danske Landmandsbank	Dillon, Read Overseas Corporation
Domini Securities Corporation Harris & Partners	Drayton Corporation	Dresdner Bank	Drexel, Burnham & Co.
Effectenbank-Warburg	European Banking Company	First Boston (Europe)	Robert Fleming & Co.
Antony Gibbs Holdings Ltd.	Goldman Sachs International Corp.	Grieson Grant & Co.	Hambro-Mitsui Ltd.
R. Henriques jr. Bank - Aktieselskab	Hill Samuel & Co.	Industriebank von Japan (Deutschland)	Japan International Bank
Jardine Fleming & Company	Kansai-Osaka-Paniki	Kidder, Peabody International	Kyobanharas Handelsbank
Kreditbank N.V.	Kuhn, Loeb & Co. International	Loeb, Rhoards & Co.	London & Continental Bankers
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith	Samuel Montagu & Co.	Morgan Grenfell & Co.	Nederlandsche Middenstandsbank N.V.
New Japan Securities Co. Ltd.	The Nikko Securities Co., (Asia) Ltd.	The Nikko Securities Co., (Europe) Ltd.	The Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru Securities Co., Ltd.
Paine, Webber, Jackson & Curtis	Picson, Helling & Pierson	Privatbanken Aktieselskab	N. M. Rothschild & Sons
Saifi Securities International	Salomon Brothers	Sauwa Bank (Underwriters)	J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co.
Singapore - Japan Merchant Bank Ltd.	Singer & Friedlander	Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken	Smith, Barney & Co.
Société Générale de Banque S.A.	Société Séquanaise de Banque	Strauss, Turabell & Co.	Svenska Handelsbanken
Sveriges Kreditbank	Tradinvest Bank & Trust Company of Nassau	C. G. Triakans & Burkhardt	United Chase Merchant Bankers
United Overseas Bank	Vereinsbank in Hamburg	Vickers, da Costa & Co. Bahamas Ltd.	M. M. Warburg-Brinkmann, Wirtz & Co.
Warburg-Paribas, Inc.	Wardley	Westdeutsche Landesbank	White, Weld & Co.
			Wood Gundy
			Yamaichi International (Europe) Ltd.

16th May, 1974

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London and Regional Market Prices

Weak close to the account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Today Dealings End, June 7 § Contango Day, June 10 Settlement Day, June 18
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